



Hanley School

Prospectus – July 2017

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Welcome to Hanley School:

Hello and a warm welcome to Aurora Hanley School. Our vision is quite simple – we believe in empowering uniqueness. We want every child and young person in our service to develop and achieve their full potential; educationally, socially and personally.

By providing person-centered programmes with a therapeutic approach, targeting social skills as well as educational outcomes, we'll enable students to develop and grow in their own unique and inspiring ways.

About Our School:

Aurora Hanley School is a new special school located in the heart of Stoke, offering flexible day and residential placements for students aged 6 to 19 years with complex communication and social difficulties.

Students may be on the autistic spectrum, have Asperger's syndrome or other difficulties that impact their emotional health and well-being and create barriers to learning.

Aurora Hanley provides an educational environment that not only supports these specific learning needs but also enables students to work at a pace that's right for them. With the right support, most students will have the opportunity to achieve academic success and work towards GCSEs and other qualifications.

Student Profile:

Age: 6-19 years

Gender: Mixed

Special Education Needs: Complex social and communication difficulties associated with Asperger's Syndrome, Higher Functioning Autism and other needs

High levels of support: all students are provided with enhanced support throughout the school day and provision can be made for those requiring higher levels of support, either full-time or periodically, to enable access to the curriculum and participation in school activities.

Flexible placements: education is delivered for 38 weeks of the year. Residential placements for accommodation on the same site as the school are available for 40 to 52 weeks of the year.

Clinical and therapeutic support: clinical and therapeutic input is integral to the educational approach with therapy integrated throughout the school day to enable students to fully access the curriculum.

Our Vision:

Our vision is simple:

'To empower individuals to grow.'

The word 'growth' is personal to each and every one of the pupils at the school. We believe that no matter how big a challenge they face, each and every individual has a unique set of skills and abilities and diversity is encouraged, developed and celebrated.

Our Aims:

At Aurora Hanley School we focus on:

- Providing personalised specialist education – where students can learn and express themselves in a nurturing and safe environment that understands their needs and supports them to maximise their full potential
- Supporting students to be part of an enriched school and community life
- Preparing students for life beyond school – developing their abilities and achieving their own unique level of independence as they approach adulthood

Facilities:

The school has been designed specifically to support children who struggle in larger mainstream environments and offers:

- High staff ratios
- Small class sizes of up to 6
- Therapy support including Clinical Psychology
- Behaviour management programmes
- Specialist SEN teachers
- Specialist classrooms;
 - food tech
 - art/design
 - science
- Quiet room and library



Our approach to Education – One size does not fit all:

School Day:

Students arrive between 8.55 – 9.10 for Breakfast Club. Registration will be taken at 9.15 in tutor time before the school day begins. Lessons finish at 2.55. Students are then collected between 2.55 – 3.10 from the dining room where there is an opportunity to hand over any messages or information from the day.

Curriculum Aims:

We recognise that all students should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. 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. Learning and teaching is approached with a focus on the individual needs of the learners. Each student has a tailored curriculum based upon their baseline assessment, previous academic outcomes and long-term learning targets.

Students are taught in small groups, individually, and when appropriate within the community. High aspirations are held for all our students. Through the curriculum and students' experiences; knowledge, self-confidence, the ability to communicate and independence are developed.

The design of the curriculum will:

- ensure all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- ensure that all students have an equal right to access high-quality teaching in all areas of the curriculum that addresses their individual needs and supports them to make good progress
- promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all students
- encourage personal development, so that they are well prepared to respect others and contribute to wider society and life in Britain
- promote fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- support all students developing healthy lifestyles and develop positive relationships
- provide opportunities and experiences that develop student's communication skills.

The Curriculum:

The school curriculum is based on providing all students with opportunities to develop skills, knowledge and understanding across 7 key areas; Linguistic, Mathematical, Scientific, Technological, Physical, Aesthetic and creative, and Human and Social.

The focus of learning at Aurora Hanley School is on progression. Each student has an individualised programs of study for Literacy and Numeracy which will be generated from the baseline assessments carried out when they arrive. The purpose is to move them forward at their own pace and to ensure that lessons are targeted to their specific areas of need.

In key stages 2 and 3 students follow programmes of study which deliver the skills and knowledge identified in The National Curriculum. The curriculum embraces all areas of academic learning at a level that is related to individual educational needs and provides suitable levels of challenge. Opportunities to develop students personal, social and health awareness and understanding are embedded across all curriculum areas.



Each half term is given a topic or theme with the relevant programs from each subject embedded into the scheme of work. There is also the opportunity to carry out individual projects within the theme, which are differentiated to the skills, needs, ability and interests. This allows all students access to the topic at a personal level. Studies in key stage 4 support students to attain relevant qualifications so that they can and do progress to the next stage of their education, for some this may possibly

be into courses that lead to higher-level qualifications and into employment. Additionally, the school provides learning experiences which enable students to develop the skills needed for independent living. Students are able to make choices regarding the courses they study and the types of qualifications they work towards. Qualifications offered meet a range of abilities in a variety of subject areas. The school has in place a strong belief in the value of vocational education programs and provides access to suitable courses and accreditation. Vocational studies can include opportunities for students to attend college and work placements.

All students have their own personalised intervention program. This encompasses aspects of learning, functional skills, life skills and emotional well-being. When an area of concern is identified the staff team will devise a strategy to address the area of need. This will then be implemented across the disciplines. Progress will be monitored and recorded. In the event of a positive outcome not being achieved the strategy will be revised.

Aurora Hanley School is regularly visited by outside speakers and educational visits are arranged. These give students the opportunity to access learning through members of the community and experience learning through a wide range of sources. Integral to our curriculum is a wide range of educational experiences that extend beyond the classroom. Trips and visits extend the range of environments in which students learn and broaden their experiences of the wider world.

Outdoor Education programmes include adventurous activities that enable students to enjoy taking part in physical and social tasks, in a range of environments and locations which are free from the constraints of a classroom. Students have opportunities to develop social skills, self-confidence, tolerance and team working skills whilst developing positive attitudes to health and fitness.

Aurora Hanley School provides Sex and Relationships education. Students are encouraged and guided by moral principles and taught to recognise the value of family life. The role of SRE is to both explore and challenge conventional notions of masculinity and femininity, describing sexuality in a positive sense. It provides pupils with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to feel happy and supported in their own sexual identity, and to respect others' sexual identity.

Those involved in the delivery of SRE will be committed to securing a safe environment which encourages open discussion of both the positives and dangers of sexual activity. The biological aspects of human reproduction are delivered through the science curriculum. We recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's program of Sex and Relationship Education, other than those elements, which are required by the Science National Curriculum.

SMSC and PSHE are central to all aspects of our curriculum. Students are encouraged to respect the law and to act consistently with their own beliefs and with a view to the consequences of their own and others' actions. We enthusiastically promote fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Political issues are introduced in a number of courses and are presented in a balanced manner. The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the School is not allowed.

Religious Education is delivered as a discrete subject and referenced within other subjects as and when it is relevant. The RE curriculum incorporates learning about the major world faiths and religions so pupils have a broader understanding of the diverse world that they are living in. Visits to places of worship within the locality enable students to understand the lives of those in the surrounding area and how everyone contributes to the community.

Curriculum Transition:

Aurora Hanley School prides itself on providing effective and vital support for students as they make transitions through the various stages in their education. We carefully manage the transition of our students throughout the school and in preparing them for further education. Detailed assessment and planning allow the full team of professionals to ensure that all support is cohesive and leads to the fulfilment of each individual's targets.

Students and their parents/guardian/carers are provided with advice about the transition process and included in discussion prior to decisions being made about next steps.

Residential Living:

Aurora Hanley School provides on-site accommodation, with six spacious and individually designed bedrooms with en-suite shower facilities, a large lounge area, separate games/playroom, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. The living areas are fresh and bright and both the environment and care provided creates a safe, comfortable and nurturing home.



Young people can learn how to cook and are encouraged to look after their rooms and themselves. There are various activities, sports and games on offer and opportunities to develop friendships and explore new interests. Outings can include visits to the cinema, cafés and shops.

Uniform:

- Black trousers or skirt (not denim)
- School polo shirt and sweatshirt with school logo
- Black shoes (trainers are only for PE or outside activities)

Multidisciplinary Team approach:

Education at Hanley School is enhanced by clinical support from qualified therapy and nursing staff who are experienced in supporting children with complex communication and social needs and work in close collaboration with the teaching team. This multidisciplinary team approach provides holistic support for students with complex needs to be able to access education and build on their abilities to maximise their full potential.

Safeguarding Statement:

Aurora Hanley School is wholly committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of pupils and expects all staff, volunteers, parents/carers and visitors to share this commitment. Safer recruitment practices are followed and all staff have an Enhanced DBS check.

Quality Statement:

Aurora Hanley School is wholly committed to providing the highest quality service to children, young people, parents/carers and Local Authorities. We believe that children, young people and young adults, 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 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 which our staff are always happy to hear.

For further information on the Safeguarding policy and copies of other school and children's home policies please refer to the website or contact school reception.

Our term dates:

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

Contact Us:

For more information or to get in touch with our Head Teacher please contact us at:

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Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent
ST2 8PQ

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Head Teacher: Kate Reeves

Proprietor: Stephen Bradshaw