



# **Meldreth Manor School**

## **Prospectus – July 2017**

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## **About Our School and Children's Home**

Meldreth Manor supports children and young people age 6-18 years who have complex learning difficulties and is one of the few schools in the country that is also able to support complex health needs and associated difficulties.

These may be as a result of conditions such as cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, degenerative conditions or autism requiring a specialist approach.

Young people may have multiple disabilities, including sensory and physical impairments and benefit from specialist facilities designed to meet their needs. The highly skilled team of teaching, care and clinical staff take a holistic approach that considers physical, emotional, social, sensory and educational needs within a waking day curriculum.

The support provided enables each young person to engage and progress at their own level within a living and learning environment that is all about enriching individual lives and helping everyone to achieve their full potential as they reach adulthood.

## **Student Profile**

Aurora Meldreth Manor School is an Independent Special School and as a Children's Home. We believe that determining whether the school can meet the needs of the individual is central and our assessment will define how this can be achieved. Having a relevant peer group will also be a consideration. Students have a Statement of Special Educational Need or a new Education, Health and Care Plan.

They will have severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties and associated complexities that require education in a specialist setting providing small class sizes, high levels of specialist support, specialist learning environments and a teaching team experienced and skilled in supporting higher level complex needs.

**Age:** 6-18 years

**Gender:** Mixed

**Special Education Needs:** Severe and complex learning difficulties (PMLD, SLD), sensory impairments and physical disabilities associated with Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Acquired Brain Injury, Autism, and complex health 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 are available for up to 52 weeks. We also offer residential care only placements and short breaks.

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

***"The environment the staff create and how they are with the children is what makes this place what it is. It's the best move we ever made"***

— Parent of child at Meldreth Manor, 2017

## 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 Meldreth Manor 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

The vision for Meldreth is of a vibrant and enabling environment that gives young people opportunities for new experiences, to explore their interests further and increased independence to live the life they choose.

## Facilities

The school provides day placements for 38 weeks of the year and the children's home offers flexible residential placements for up to 52 weeks of the year, including weekly boarding and shared care arrangements or residential care placements for young people accessing other local schools. Short breaks are also available for a small number of children who are looking for overnight stays during term time and in the holidays at a caring and homely facility able to meet their complex needs.



Meldreth Manor is in the village of Meldreth on the Hertfordshire/Cambridgeshire borders, within easy access of the M1 and M11 and close to Meldreth train station with links to Cambridge and London.

Set within 14-acres, the site provides creative spaces for living and learning which are currently undergoing a multimillion pound redesign and refurbishment to include interior designed living areas, upgraded school, a new hydrotherapy pool and landscaped gardens with a multi-use activity area. There will be a café and hub in the front of the school, providing opportunities for young people to undertake social enterprises including running the café and events.

### **The service provides:**

- High staff ratios
- Small classes of up to six students
- Hydrotherapy pool
- Rebound therapy
- Multi-media room
- Multi-sensory areas
- Individual learning areas for break out time and quiet time
- Therapy including physiotherapy, speech and language and occupational therapy
- Nursing support
- An accessible site with hoisting throughout.

## Education at Meldreth Manor School

### The School Day

The school day runs from 09:30 to 12:00 with a break for lunch time. The afternoon runs from 13:30 to 15:45.



### The Curriculum

The school offers a curriculum that is broad and balanced and differentiated, providing relevant and exciting learning opportunities that are designed to meet individual needs. It is planned around the key areas of learning; communication, cognition, physical and sensory skills and personal, self-help and life skills and it is personalised to take account of the needs, abilities and strengths of students. Tasks and activities are differentiated to enable every individual to make progress at the pace that is right for them.



Throughout the school week, students experience consistent and familiar rhythms that help them to make sense of the structure of their day. These are enhanced with therapy programmes designed to help break down the barriers they may face as a result of their disabilities and help gain skills that will, in turn, support their educational programmes.

Students have personalised targets that are referenced and reviewed regularly by teaching staff, who are skilled in segmenting common learning themes into discrete activities, enabling students to work towards and achieve their personal goals.

This approach is enhanced by the imaginative use of a variety of interesting and appropriate resources and the environments they learn in - from the rich experiences of sound, colour and touch in the sensory room, through to visits at the local garden centre, physical work in the hydrotherapy pool or during energising rebound therapy. Regular trips provide opportunities for students to experience the local and wider communities and put their life skills into practice. Enterprise activities





are also explored by students and have included Meldreth Manor Apple Juice using the fruits of the orchard and creating handmade greetings cards.

## Learning styles



Teaching and learning activities are adapted to suit the student's individual learning styles. The balance of the curriculum reflects our student's needs. Due to the complex nature of their learning difficulties, most of them are at the early stages of development as learners. They require a high proportion of time allocated to development 'readiness for learning'. Our students present a variety of learning styles (i.e. tactile, visual, auditory, kinaesthetic) and these are taken into account as part of planning for groups and individuals.

**Students with a tactile learning style benefit** from using the sense of touch whilst learning. This involves working with and manipulating sensory materials; and using three-dimensional learning resources (e.g. objects of reference).

**Students with a visual learning style benefit** from using the sense of sight whilst learning. This involves visual resources (e.g. photos; symbols; visual schedules; and a range of visual media including the use of Interactive White Boards, iPads and other devices).

**Students with an auditory learning style** benefit from the sense of hearing whilst learning. They find easier to learn through spoken language and the use of sounds (e.g. engaging in dialogue, receiving verbal information; using specific sounds to create anticipation).



## Residential Living

Meldreth Manor is also a registered children's home and provides flexible accommodation designed to meet the needs of the children and young people. The extensive refurbishment programme will provide highly desirable themed rooms and a vibrant yet homely space in which to live, whether throughout the year or just occasionally if undertaking a short break.

Our care team is passionate about ensuring that every individual is happy, healthy and well supported to meet their individual needs, embracing their abilities and nurturing them to make choices about the lives they want to live. Developing friendships, exploring new and favourite interests, taking advantage of the many opportunities for after school and social activities are all part of life at Meldreth.



Supporting the complex physical, sensory and health needs of children and young people is crucial to maintaining good health for young people so they can access education and their take part in their daily activities. Skills include delivering personal care and medications, posture management, managing epilepsy and other conditions.

Houses have spacious living/dining room with TV, games and eating areas and individual bedrooms with a mix of bathing facilities and hoisting throughout for safe and easy movement for those with physical conditions. For those that can eat orally, fresh food is prepared daily by our chef and a variety of tastes and diets are catered for.

We encourage families to visit regularly and are able to offer limited family accommodation, which is also undergoing a makeover.

## **Multidisciplinary Team approach**

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

## **Safeguarding Statement**

Aurora Meldreth Manor School and Children's Home 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 Meldreth Manor School and Children's Home 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 Principal please contact us at:

Aurora Meldreth Manor School  
Fenny Lane  
Meldreth  
SG8 6LG

**Telephone:** 01763 268 000

**Email for school:** [meldreth.manor@the-aurora-group.com](mailto:meldreth.manor@the-aurora-group.com)

**Principal:** Robert Bates

**Head of Education:** Maria Poultney

**Head of Care:** Emma Nelson

**Proprietor:** Stephen Bradshaw

## **How to find us**

Meldreth Manor School is within easy access to the A1 and M11 (Junction 11).

Meldreth train station, with mainline links to London and Cambridge, is approximately a 15-minute walk or 5-minute drive away from the school.