



“ Thanks to the nurturing and understanding the staff here have shown to my son, his future is looking incredibly bright. ”

Specialist academic and therapeutic provision in a creative, supportive environment, for students aged 11-18 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.

Welcome

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

It is our aim to provide an environment in which young people 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 students 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



It is both my pleasure and honour to lead the secondary provision at this glorious, 34-acre site, as Headteacher here at Aurora Eccles.

We recognise that every young person comes to us via their own unique path, but that what unites them is the need for a different environment and approach to teaching. We therefore strive to 'do different', while remaining ambitious for what each of our students can achieve.

Our learning model is informed by the national curriculum, augmented with additional options and experiences designed to facilitate communication and interaction between students, such as 'life skills' development classes and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

We pride ourselves on building positive relationships with our students and their families, and we look forward to showing you around our wonderful site and welcoming you into our community here at Aurora Eccles.

Christopher MacKinnon

Headteacher, Aurora Eccles

About Our School

Aurora Eccles is an independent, specialist day school for students aged 11-18 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).

We have high expectations for all our students and we encourage them to expect more for themselves. We offer a personalised package of education and support to each student, designed around the needs identified in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Our ambition is to give our students all the skills they need to lead an independent, fulfilling adult life. We do this not only by providing opportunities for them to achieve academically, but also by helping them develop the practical skills necessary to manage their own physical, emotional and social wellbeing and to understand their place in the world.

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Our curriculum and facilities

Students at Aurora Eccles enjoy a broad curriculum that mirrors the experience of their mainstream peers, based around the core subjects of English, mathematics, science and humanities along with specialist subjects including computing and ICT, art and multimedia, and design and technology.

We also offer all our students opportunities to develop non-academic 'life skills' such as cookery, gardening and construction. Our older students have the option to complete the ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE), a substantial, nationally recognised qualification in skills development. The CoPE enables students to practise, develop and demonstrate six important skills that are required for success in higher education, training or employment: teamwork, problem solving, discussion, research, oral presentation and self-management.

Students at Aurora Eccles benefit from access to facilities including a music room, science laboratories, cookery room, and technology and art studios, and enjoy regular use of our extensive sports and recreation facilities, including an indoor swimming pool, large sports field, activity centre and climbing wall. All students take part in a range of individual and team sports, with both inter-house and external fixtures against other schools planned regularly throughout the academic year.

Set in 34 acres of beautiful countryside, Aurora Eccles also has a wealth of exciting outdoor learning spaces for students, including an area of magnificent private woodland, which is used for our Outdoor and Woodland Learning (OWLs) programme. Incorporating a range of adventurous activities delivered by qualified Forest School practitioners, the OWLs programme offers students the freedom to be the architects of their own learning, all within a natural environment.

The learning experience for students at Aurora Eccles does not end at the school gate. All our students participate in school visits, trips and community projects to bring the curriculum subjects to life, and are encouraged to support our staff in organising them. From Year 10 onwards, our students also have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme, through which they can experience new challenges and further develop their communication and teamwork skills.

Integrated therapy

As well as academic and skill development opportunities, we offer a range of therapeutic interventions designed to help our students overcome barriers to participation in education. Discrete interventions, including speech and language therapy and occupational therapy, are delivered by our on-site team of highly skilled clinical staff with support from visiting therapy specialists. These interventions sit alongside a classroom experience which integrates therapeutic approaches on a one-to-one, small group and whole class basis.

Your experience with us

We understand that your journey to us may not have been an easy one. It is our ambition to offer you a different, more positive experience from this point onwards.

Many of our students talk about the transformational effect that attending Aurora Eccles has had on their life, both in and outside of school. Indeed, some of our parents tell us that by relieving the stress involved in their past experiences of mainstream education, we have given them opportunities to rebuild relationships at home and to enjoy family time again.



“ I think if anyone from his old school saw him now they wouldn't recognise him. His anxiety has mostly gone and he's much more relaxed and loving school. ”



The Aurora Eccles journey

When a young person arrives at Aurora Eccles, we commit to exploring ways of helping them fulfil their potential in every area of their life.

We begin by rebuilding their faith in school and education, by creating an environment where they feel safe and able to learn. We take a positive approach to behaviour management, encouraging the development of a strong sense of identity while promoting effective interaction with others.

Individual pastoral support and care for each student is provided by their form teacher, who also has regular contact with their parents and carers to offer support, guidance and a link to other staff and departments. For students requiring higher levels of support, provision can be made – either full time or periodically – to facilitate participation in school activities.

Throughout their time with us, students have an opportunity to achieve a range of qualifications, from pre-entry-level certificates through to higher-grade GCSEs, depending on their needs, abilities and interests.

By the time they leave us, each of our students will be in a position to make meaningful, informed choices about their own future, whether that is by accessing further education, or through appropriate vocational training or employment.



Case study: Max's journey

When Max* first arrived at Aurora Eccles he was very unsettled and so was unable to complete much of his work. He spent very little time in the classroom, instead preferring to pick up litter from the school grounds (his 'go-to' activity for when he felt stressed).

To make Max feel more comfortable, we assigned him a small staff team and encouraged him to contribute to a new set of rules for the classroom. This allowed him to begin to integrate – while he still preferred to sit alone at the back of the class, he was now able to answer questions and complete small amounts of written work.

Over the coming weeks, Max began to make friends with the other students, join in with games and follow instructions from his peers and teachers. Allowing him to integrate at his own pace was crucial in helping him to feel safe and comfortable, and gradually he took his seat on the seating plan and started to join in properly with lessons.

Today, Max engages in all his lessons, takes pride in his work and is much more confident in verbalising his emotions. He arrives each morning keen to participate, and prefers reading a book or magazine to going litter-picking!

*Names have been changed.

What you need to know

Uniform

Uniform can be ordered online from Birds of Dereham at 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.

School 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).

Term dates

Our term dates are sent to parents and carers annually. They are also available to view and download on our website at www.the-aurora-group.com/ecclesschool.

Our commitment to you

Quality statement

At Aurora Eccles 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 Eccles 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:

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



11-18



Mixed



38 Week Day

Caring

Ambitious

Collaborative

Trusted

Innovative



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AuroraGroupUK



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