



Meldreth Manor School

Prospectus – June 2018

Contents Page

3	About our School and Children's Home
4	Student Profile
5	Our Vision
6	Facilities
7-8	Education
9	Residential Living
10	Multidisciplinary Team Approach
11	Contact Us



About Our School and Children's Home

Meldreth Manor supports children and young people age 6-19 years who have highly complex learning difficulties and is one of the few schools in the country that also supports young people with complex health needs and associated difficulties such as enteral feeding. These may be because 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 the specialist facilities which are designed to meet their needs. The highly skilled team of teaching, care and clinical staff take a holistic approach that considers physical, emotional, social, medical, sensory and therapeutic needs within an educational context and across the waking day.

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: 6-19 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:

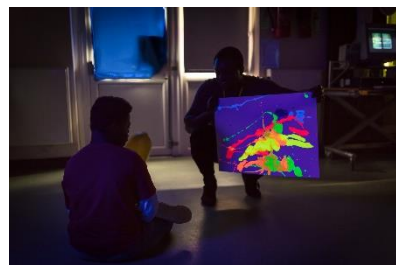
- Providing personalised specialist education – where students can learn and express themselves in a nurturing and safe environment that understands their needs and supports them to maximise their full potential
- Supporting students to be part of an enriched school and community life
- Preparing students 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 breakout 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 slightly later start to the school day and longer lunches give students the time to prepare for learning in the morning and to develop their eating and self-care skills at lunchtimes.



The Curriculum

All students access the IMPACTS curriculum. This is a needs-led curriculum that focuses on the key areas of communication, cognition, physical development, environmental control technology and personal, emotional and social wellbeing which includes self-help and self-advocacy skills.



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.

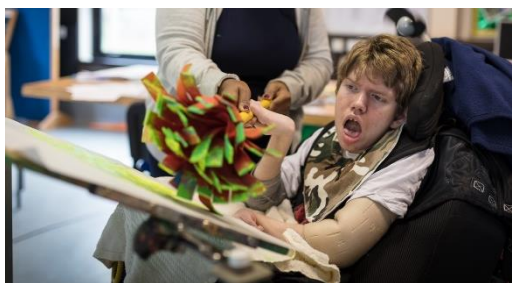
Where appropriate, the National Curriculum is taken into consideration in the planning and delivery of both content and context. Our curriculum is personalised around the needs and the starting points of our students, recognising their individual strengths and abilities.

Each class has students grouped with consideration to their sensory needs, cognitive understanding and compatibility. Differentiated learning opportunities consider age appropriateness, group dynamics, individual needs and interests. Some of our students have interests which are not necessarily related to their chronological age, but rather to their developmental age. We consider it important to strike the right balance in acknowledging the students' interests and offering age-appropriate options.



We aim to provide students with memorable experiences and stimulate them through the activities they undertake – the goal is to promote self-esteem and personal independence for all our students, who have complex learning difficulties and may have accompanying physical disabilities and medical needs.

Every student has personalised targets. These are referenced and reviewed regularly by staff, who are skilled in breaking down common learning themes into discrete activities, which enable students to work towards and achieve their personal goals. Teaching staff work as part of a multidisciplinary team together with therapists and learning support assistants to develop strategies to deliver a meaningful, appropriate and personalised curriculum.



For most of our students, learning new things is a steady process and staff work intensively with them towards each new step, building on previous learning and earlier achievements, enabling students to continue to make progress, no matter how small, through familiar routines, practice and repetition. For some students, maintenance of skills is considered as progress.

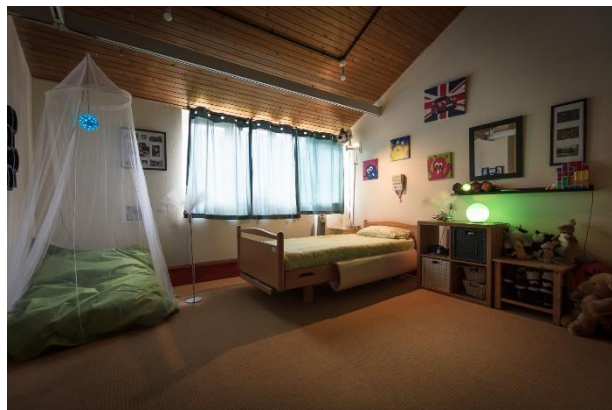
This approach is enhanced by the imaginative use of a variety of suitable and interesting resources and the environment they are in - from the rich experiences of sound, colour and touch in the sensory room through to visits at the local garden centre, physical exercises in the hydrotherapy pool or during energising rebound therapy. Regular off-site visits and trips provide opportunities for students to experience the local and wider community. Enterprise activities include Meldreth Manor Apple Juice and handmade greetings cards.

Whatever the activity, our focus is always on developing skills and awareness and an ability to communicate with others around them.

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 well-being 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

Head of Education: Janis Rogers

Head of Operations: Denise Grayston

Proprietor: Kathryn Rudd

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.