

Admissions Policy

Our mission and overarching aim within The Aurora Group is to 'Empower Uniqueness' in all the children and young people in our care.

We seek to achieve this by enabling and creating environments conducive to high quality care, learning, therapeutic and clinical input for young people to take control of their lives and achieve the maximum level of independence; however, this is defined by them or for them.

Our aim is to provide personalised programmes of outstanding education and care governed by 'The Aurora Way', which is a set of principles guiding all of our policy and practice. The Aurora Way is based on five values; Passion, Creative, Integrity, United and Excellence.

Aurora Meldreth Manor is a DfE registered independent day school with an Ofsted registered children's home for children and young people with complex needs, with up to 50 students aged 6 to 19 years. The children and young people have a range of special educational needs and disabilities, including Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD); Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD), Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty (PMLD); physical disabilities and sensory impairments, which require specialist care, education and therapeutic input.

Many of the young people transition to our adult provision, on site at Orchard Manor, supporting them to continue their learning and development in our safe and nurturing environment. See *Statement of Purpose for the Children's Home and Orchard Manor adult provision*.

Admission Criteria

The admission arrangements are determined by The Aurora Group, in conjunction with the Principal and Head of Education at Aurora Meldreth Manor. The published admission number (PAN) for Aurora Meldreth Manor School is 50.

Following referral, all information about a prospective student will be considered before deciding if their needs can be met by the School

A decision to admit a new student is made based on whether we can meet their needs effectively and we will consider their compatibility with existing students. Referrals and admissions can be made at any point throughout the academic year.

Admissions Process

Enquiries and Referrals - new referrals can be made via our website, by making enquiries directly with the School, or through the central Aurora Commissioning Team. We welcome visits to the School, by prior arrangement with the Principal or Head of Education, and would encourage prospective parents/carers, advocates or Social Workers to do so to support their decision to choose Aurora Meldreth Manor.

Assessment - We require up-to-date information, including relevant documents such as the most recent Statement of SEN or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), previous school reports, medical information and reports, educational psychology / clinical assessments to assist in our initial assessment. Information regarding the child's likes and dislikes and interests are helpful too.

Key staff members will arrange to visit the student at his/ her present school and/ or at home. Initial assessments will include information seeking about education interests, skills and challenges, as well as clarifying best management of health conditions and behaviours. Where appropriate, and if it is felt to be beneficial, the student may be invited to Aurora Meldreth Manor with their parents/carer to meet the class teacher, Care Manager and other staff including therapists for an assessment visit.

Following assessment, we use all of the available information to decide whether we can appropriately meet the needs of the student.

We liaise with the relevant Local Authority and funding bodies throughout the referral and assessment process. In order for us to offer a place, there will need to be a formal application and written agreement of funding from the funding authorities (usually from education, social care and/ or health). A formal offer letter will be sent to funding authorities, with a copy sent to parents/carers. Contracts will be issued by the funding authority and must be signed before the placement starts.

Following agreement of the place with the relevant commissioners within the Local Authority, a start date is agreed and a new admissions welcome pack, with all key information is sent to parents/carers. In addition, a welcome pack with photographs of the environment and staff team is sent to the new pupil.

Admission

Prior to admission, we hold a pre-admission meeting, with parents/ carers and placing local authority representatives to plan a smooth transition to Aurora Meldreth Manor. Transition planning is individual to the needs and requirements of each young person.

Induction is carefully planned and highly personalised, with the student's needs and wishes in mind. This might include a phased entry over a short period to enable a smooth transition process. During **the first three months** of the placement, the student's abilities and needs are **fully assessed** and programmes of learning and therapeutic input are refined.

Care staff working directly with the student will assess his/ her level of independence in daily living skills. In school, teaching staff will assess learning supported by input from the multi-disciplinary team.

These initial assessments allow us to determine the student's needs, evaluate staffing levels required, refine therapy input and support us in setting appropriate and achievable outcomes for the future.

An initial review will be arranged after approximately three months where parents/carers and the Local Authority will be invited to review the student's placement at Aurora Meldreth Manor.