

ALDERWASLEY HALL SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

part of the SENAD Group

Local Offer



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An Independent Specialist Day and Residential School for Young People aged 5 to 19 years with High-Functioning ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), Asperger's Syndrome, Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) and Developmental Language Disorder.

What does your school do?

With over 25 years' experience of working with young people, Alderwasley Hall School and Sixth Form provides an exceptional education for day and residential students aged 5 to 19. Our focus is on helping students achieve not just their academic potential but their social potential too.

We provide a truly integrated education, combining teaching, therapy and care, tailored for young people High-Functioning ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), Asperger's Syndrome, Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) and Developmental Language Disorder. We're also highly experienced in meeting associated diagnoses and needs, such as Selective Mutism, anxieties and phobias.



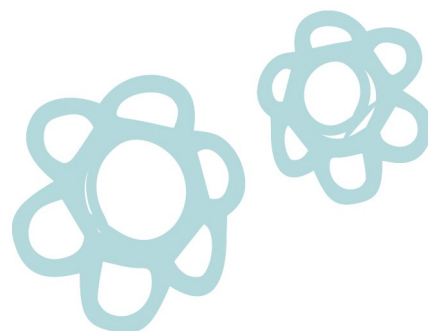
How do I get my child a place at Alderwasley Hall School?

If you're interested in a placement, please get in touch by calling Caroline Parker, Referral Manager on Tel: 01332 378840 or by emailing info@senadgroup.com and we'll arrange an initial chat. During that chat we'll ask you about your child's current situation and their ongoing educational and care needs. If we seem like a good fit, we'll invite you and your child to visit the school before arranging a more thorough assessment.

Assessments usually take between one and four days and we'll plan it with you to make sure that the transition causes as little disruption as possible for your child. We'll involve other professionals to offer advice and support before and during the assessment process too.

'Senior leaders work well with pupils, who previously have had sustained periods of absence from education, to ensure that their attendance rapidly improves'

– Ofsted Report, July 2018



How is a decision made about the type and level of support my child will receive?

Your child's support needs are set out in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). We'll also evaluate their needs during their referral and assessment. After the assessment, we'll send a report to the Local Authority outlining if and how we believe we can provide the right support for your child.

When your child starts at Alderwasley, we'll set a range of outcomes for them in all areas of school life and review their progress regularly, supporting them to reach their goals and making changes to them if necessary.

'Well-targeted support helps pupils to make outstanding progress in their personal development.'

– Ofsted Report, July 2018

How will staff support my child?

Your child will receive tailored support from our large team of teachers, Learning Support Workers (LSWs), Occupational Therapists (OTs), Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs), a Clinical Psychologist, a Psychotherapist and care staff. Your child will be allocated a Key Team taken from this wide team of specialists who will track their progress across every day and support their development as they move through the school and its homes.

As a specialist school, we have a high staff to pupil ratio and small class sizes. Every member of staff has been given specific training to enable them to support our young people to a very high standard.



How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs and how do you track my child's progress?

All of our students have an individual timetable tailored for them that's designed to help them reach their academic potential. We offer a broad and balanced Primary and Key Stage 3 curriculum and at Key Stage 4 we offer a wide variety of subjects from Entry level up to Level Three qualifications (A level, AS level, level 3 NVQ). We can also support your child attending a local, external college where this is appropriate. Your child will be in a small class with other students of similar ability, with continual access to teaching support, physical aides and quiet workspaces to assist their learning.

We'll set achievable but challenging outcomes for your child's education, therapy and care, and regularly assess their progress against those outcomes. If any issues arise during your child's time here, we'll address them quickly, professionally and kindly, involving you and relevant professionals at all times.



How will my child be included in activities outside of the classroom?

The three core aims of the school are to give students a sense of belonging, to help them develop a sense of productivity, and to maximise their emotional and physical wellbeing. To achieve these, we ensure that alongside lessons and therapy, students have access to a wide range of enrichment activities.

We encourage students to pursue their own interests and develop new ones, and take part in various activities, including local clubs and societies, sports, swimming, Forest Schools, cookery lessons, as well as offering them the opportunity to join the Student Council and go on educational visits.



'Senior leaders have designed the secondary provision's curriculum to match pupils' needs, aptitudes and interests.'

– Ofsted Report, July 2018

What specialist services, training and expertise are available?

We have a large multi-disciplinary team of therapists, including Occupational Therapists (OTs), Speech & Language Therapists (SLTs) who work with our young people on a daily basis. Many of this team are highly specialised in areas such as ASD, Sensory Integration, Selective Mutism and Anxiety.

We employ our own Mental Health Team comprising a Clinical Psychologist, a Psychotherapist and 2 Wellbeing Officers. In conjunction with our Health Promotions Manager who oversees the health and medical needs of all our young people, this team are integral in supporting the wellbeing of our young people.

Staff are given comprehensive training when they start at Alderwasley, including specialist training during their probationary period and are expected to take an active role in their ongoing professional development throughout their careers. All of the staff who work in our Children's Residential services attain Diploma Level 3 Children and Young People's Workforce. In addition, our Registered Managers achieve Diploma Level 5 Leadership and Management in Residential Services.

Within our Education-day team we have a number of staff with postgraduate qualifications in areas including Autism, Dyslexia, Education and SEN.

'Pupils receive first-class therapy to improve their communication skills.'

– Ofsted Report, July 2018



What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

Your child's support needs will be assessed before they come to the school and when they start, they'll work with a Key Team (with teaching, therapy and support staff) who'll monitor their wellbeing and address any areas of concern as soon as they come up. Residential students also have a Key Worker on their Key Team, who acts as an advocate for them and is also the main contact for parents, carers and professionals.

Every member of the Key Team attends a student's reviews and key meetings to monitor their progress and ensure that your child is thriving and making sufficient progress.

Each site has a Wellbeing Officer who has a key role in supporting attendance and overall wellbeing of each young person. These team members work alongside our Therapies Team and Health Promotions Manager to support the development of healthy living and help them to improve and maximise their mental and physical wellbeing.

'The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.' – Ofsted Report, July 2018

How will you prepare my child for the next stage of their life?

As well as academic achievement, we pride ourselves in ensuring that our young people are well-prepared for life beyond school. Students in Key Stages 1 to 5 study a Life Skills Curriculum and all students are taught a range of independence skills to develop their ability to be self-reliant.

Working together, we'll continually look at your child's options for the future (involving our in-house Careers Team where appropriate) and ensure that we're providing them with the necessary skills and qualifications for their next steps.

We realise that transitions can be difficult for students and their families, so we make sure that we manage them in as timely and sensitive a way as possible. We will actively support transitions by liaising with you – the parents or carers – and professionals as appropriate. We'll then support them to make the transition at an appropriate pace, helping them become familiar with a new location or different members of staff at every stage of their educational journey.

'Pupils make rapid progress in their personal development, including their preparation for adulthood.' – Ofsted Report, July 2018



How do you work with and involve me in my child's placement?

We recognise that a young person's family is integral to them achieving the best possible outcomes and we'll want to keep in touch with you regularly about your child and their progress at school. You'll be involved in all key decisions about your child and we'll ask you to come to all of their review meetings. If your child has a residential placement, we'll encourage you to visit them as often as you can.

We'll also encourage you to network and access support through our parent support group – Alderwasley Parents Together (APT) – and get involved with the School Trust. The Trust raises funds for students who otherwise wouldn't be able to take part in certain enriching activities, such as our annual ski trip and music instrument lessons.

How accessible is the school environment?

We welcome students with disabilities and always do our utmost to meet a young person's specific needs. The school and sixth form are housed on two sites – the upper site is fully wheelchair accessible; the lower site has some reduced accessibility (due to it being a Grade II listed building).

In accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, we have an Accessibility Plan and we regularly assess how we can increase students' participation in the school curriculum, improve the physical environment and make written information more accessible.



School contact details:

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Lower Site



Upper Site

Aims of Alderwasley Hall School and Sixth Form

Our goal is for every one of our students to be happy and healthy with a sense of belonging and purpose. Teachers, therapists, learning support workers and care staff work together to achieve our three core aims:

To give students a sense of belonging

We want students to know and feel that they're a valuable part of the community, that they're loved, accepted and included.

How do we achieve a sense of belonging?

By providing:

- A happy and caring environment for students to learn and develop in
- Small class sizes with learning support, physical aides and quiet workspaces
- A small familiar team for each student to work with (e.g. a teacher, a therapist and a tutor)
- Support for students in their family relationships and friendships
- Access to a wide range of local clubs, societies and activities

Before they came to us, 58% of our students were school refusers, with most being out of formal education for more than 6 months. After working with us, 71% of young people have attendance rates of over 95% or improve their attendance every year.

To develop a sense of productivity

It's important that our students have a strong sense of purpose, that they understand their role and value in society and are willing to contribute to their own and other people's wellbeing.

How do we achieve a sense of productivity?

We offer:

- A stretching curriculum to ensure students achieve their academic potential
- Regular rewards, celebrations and a wide range of enrichment activities
- Outstanding environments and facilities for learning, therapy and fun
- Independence skills with a focus on preparing students for life beyond school
- Life Skills Curriculum for every student in Key Stages 1 to 5

We're proud that Key Stage 4 students exceed national expectations for young people with SEN in attainment, and 100% of our young people go on to Further or Higher Education or employment.

To promote emotional and physical wellbeing

Our third aim is that our students are happy, safe and healthy, with a range of interests and that they are able to self-manage and self-regulate.

How do we achieve emotional and physical wellbeing?

We provide:

- Specialist therapy intervention with students having daily access to support
- A large therapy team of Occupational Therapists (OTs), Speech & Language Therapists (SLTs), a part-time Clinical Psychologist and Psychotherapist
- High quality sports and leisure facilities, as well as dedicated relaxation facilities
- Large open green spaces and a warm, welcoming environment
- A Health Promotions Officer who works with every student

With this support, 90% of our young people agree that they're taught how to make healthy eating choices and 93% say they're taught how to exercise.