St Christopher's School

Westbury Park, Bristol

Aurora
Empowering uniqueness

About Our School & Children's Home

Welcome to Aurora St Christopher's School and children's home. We have one aim, to empower the children and young people we support to develop and grow in their own unique and inspiring way. In so doing, we work to progress all of our children in five distinct areas including: self-care, communication, community engagement, decision making and emotional resilience.

St Christopher's provides specialist education and care for young people aged 5 to 19 years with severe language and communication difficulties and with profound and multiple learning difficulties including physical and sensory needs. These may be as a result of autism, cerebral palsy or other conditions that may also include complex health needs.

The skilled team at St Christopher's is supported by a strong clinical team of nurses, doctors, psychologist, psychiatrist and therapists cover physiotherapy, speech and language and occupational therapy.

This impressive five acre site close to Bristol City centre, provides flexible learning and living accommodation with six residential houses and two flats to support differing levels of need. Placements can also be flexible with day places at school for a 40 week term, and up to 52 week residential care.

We have recently completed phase one of our site redesign plans, with phase two starting now, creating a bespoke environment able to support young people with complex learning needs in their ambitions and to achieve their full potential. Young people will leave St Christopher's with greater independence and opportunities as they leave school and reach adulthood.

Facilities

St Christopher's is very much part of the local community, overlooking Westbury Park, in a beautiful five-acre site which has been designed to give students plenty of space and independent movement within a structured and safe environment.

This provides multiple classrooms for small class learning of up to five students and individual learning areas are available if needed. Facilities include a hydrotherapy pool, gym and multi-sensory areas. Outdoor spaces are used for additional learning and development opportunities and include a horticultural garden, a tranquil sensory garden with water features, a sunken trampoline and a climbing wall.

Education

The school provides a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum, designed to meet individual learning needs. Students benefit from small class sizes of up to five and a high staff ratio. They are allocated a class and given a weekly timetable detailing both group and individual learning sessions. Specialist teaching takes into account group dynamics and each child is supported based on their abilities and strengths.

Where required, students may study in individualised learning spaces if their surroundings and other people impact their ability to learn. But the aim is to be inclusive and encourage group work and interaction as much as possible and to develop social and independence skills.

Students can work towards academic qualifications and accreditation through ASDAN (Personal Progress Units) and EQUALS.

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.

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 garden, through to visits to the local parks or physical work in the hydrotherapy pool. Education extends into the local community and students access off-site learning experiences in the nearby park, shops and many of Bristol's other local attractions, such as the Sea Life Centre, Zoo and the docks. These regular trips provide opportunities for students to experience the local and wider communities and put their life skills into practice.

Communication between school and home life is important and daily handover meetings enable the team in the children's home to continue the work from school and provide a waking day curriculum. Day pupils will have daily reports for home too as well as regular reviews and reports.

Residential Living

Our six residential homes and two flats are spacious, light, modern and have been interior designed to be homely, providing comfortable and enjoyable living areas, whilst able to fully meet individual needs.

Houses have up to 9 individual bedrooms with en-suites and shared bathrooms/wet-rooms. Several large communal spaces for lounge/TV and dining give young people space to meet and get involved in daily activities or to simply relax.

Each house has a large kitchen and choosing, preparing and cooking meals is part of the daily routine to develop independent living skills. This includes shopping at nearby supermarkets and shops, visiting cafes and getting involved in the many leisure activities on offer in the local community and the city.

Contact Details

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How to find us:
St Christopher's School is within easy access of the M32, just off the M5 and M4.

Bristol Temple Mead train station, with mainline links to London and Exeter, is approximately 20 minutes by taxi.

Director of Operations
Dan Alipaz

Head of Education
Thereza de Lucca

For more information please visit
www.the-aurora-group.com

The Aurora Group is committed to safeguarding children and adults