



**Greenside School**  
Learning Achieving Together

# Welcome to Greenside School

Prospectus 2024-2025



# Contents

Welcome from the Headteacher	3	Learning and Teaching	14
About us	4	Our Curriculum	14
Our Vision & Ethos	5	Communication	15
Admissions	6	Post 16 Provision	15
Specialist Facilities	7	Personal and Social Development	16
Important Information	8	Relationship and Sex Education	16
Meet the Team	9	Religious Education	17
Home/ School Communication	10	Collective Worship	17
Complaints	11	School Meals	18
Our Inter-Disciplinary Team	11	Behaviour Support	19
Creativity	12	Charging Policy	19
Sport and Physical Development	13	Ill Health and School Attendance	20
Extended Learning Opportunities	13	Medication	20



# Welcome to Greenside School

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to you as part of our Greenside School community. Located in Stevenage, we are a dedicated school serving children and young adults aged 2-19 with special educational needs and disabilities. Our commitment is to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment where every student can thrive.

At Greenside, our bespoke "My Curriculum" is designed to meet the unique needs of each learner, fostering independence, creativity, and a love for learning. We take pride in our innovative approach and the strong partnerships we build with families to support each child's journey.

Our school is a vibrant, welcoming space where diversity is celebrated, and every child is valued. We encourage you to visit us and experience the warm, supportive atmosphere that defines Greenside School.

Please feel free to reach out to our team for any further information or to arrange a visit. We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Warm regards,  
Alex Tomkins  
Headteacher



# About Us

At Greenside School, our community is the cornerstone of our educational approach. We are proud of our strong partnership with Barnwell School, sharing a campus that enriches our students' social and educational experiences.

Our commitment to lifelong learning extends to our "2-Learn" program at The Hyde, where post-19 learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties receive tailored further education in partnership with North Hertfordshire College.

We also have wonderful links with the broader community, evident in the dedicated swimming volunteers who help teach our pupils essential swimming skills, further enhancing their development and well-being.



# Vision & Ethos

At Greenside everything we do is underpinned by a belief in the importance of establishing and exemplifying the types of relationships and support strategies that allow everyone to access learning and life opportunities. The desired outcome for our young people is a socially inclusive and fulfilling life.

**“ Values of: Respect, Creativity, Collaboration  
inform all aspects of our work ”**

- 🌱 We aim to provide the highest quality support to all learners and their families.
- 🌱 We believe that learners should be able to exercise choice.
- 🌱 We make learning fun and enjoyable.
- 🌱 We work in partnership with parents and carers.





## Admissions

All learners at Greenside School have a statement of special educational needs or Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP).

The Local Authority (Hertfordshire County Council) is responsible for all admissions to the school. Some learners join us at the start of their educational career and some transfer from mainstream or other special schools.

Prospective parents/carers are very welcome to visit our school and should telephone to arrange a mutually convenient time.



# Specialist Facilities

Greenside school has 5 outdoor play areas, each designed to relate to the chronological.

Our outdoor facilities feature:

- 🌳 Sensory garden
- 🌳 Accessible swing
- 🌳 Accessible roundabout
- 🌳 Accessible sand pit
- 🌳 Sunken trampolines
- 🌳 Exercise equipment
- 🌳 An adventure play area
- 🌳 AstroTurf games areas
- 🌳 Playing field
- 🌳 Swings and climbing equipment

Greenside has a wide range of specialist facilities including:

- 🌳 A warm water swimming pool
- 🌳 Multi-sensory rooms and areas
- 🌳 Soft-play room
- 🌳 Sensory integration room
- 🌳 Food technology room
- 🌳 Rebound therapy area
- 🌳 Social enterprise,
- 🌳 Accessible mini buses
- 🌳 Accessible cars

We share the dining, art, dance, library, music, gym and science facilities with Barnwell School. 2 of our Post 16 classes are located at the High School. We have 3 specialist learning provisions at The Hyde shopping centre. These provide a base for our community-based learning.



# Important Information



## Location

Greenside School,  
Shephall Green,  
Stevenage,  
Hertfordshire,  
SG2 9XS

Tel: 01438 315 356



## School Times

The school follows the same pattern of term times as the local mainstream schools. Learners arrive at school between 9.00am and 9.25am and depart from school between 3.00pm and 3.25pm.



## School Security

We are very conscious of the need to ensure that the school is safe and secure. All outdoor leisure areas are fenced and access to the schools' main entrance is by an access control system.



## Safeguarding

Greenside is a safeguarding community where: everyone sees, everyone hears, and everyone is responsible. We adhere to all Local Authority and national procedures and requirements.





# Meet the Team

## Senior Leadership Team

**Alex Tomkins**  
Headteacher

**Holly Rossington**  
Assistant Headteacher

**Dawn Brown**  
Assistant Headteacher

**Miriam Kirby**  
Assistant Headteacher

---

## School Office Team

**Jemma Stewart**  
Office Manager

**Emma Dellow**  
Finance Manager

**Lisa Hart**  
Admin Assistant

**Laura Harris**  
Admin Assistant



## Home / School Communication

The involvement of parents and carers is essential in helping their young person make good progress. Greenside recognises the expertise of parents/carers and is committed to working with them and partner agencies to achieve the best possible outcome for learners and their families. We are flexible in our home / school communication to meet the needs and preferences of each family.



# Complaints

In all circumstances parents/carers are invited to contact the school as soon as possible to discuss any concerns they may have. It is hoped that this will result in a resolution of any difficulties, but if not, the School has a policy for dealing with complaints about the curriculum and a policy regarding complaints of any other nature. These are available on request and on our website.

# Our Inter-Disciplinary Team

The school works in partnership with a variety of professionals. A team of nurses are deployed each day at the school. Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists as well as Speech and Language Therapists work within the school. Together we aim to provide the best quality education and support for our learners and their families. We also employ two speech and language specialists who offer support



# Creativity

The creative arts are used to provide outstanding opportunities for learners to learn how to express themselves, develop their self-esteem, thinking skills, confidence and sense of achievement. We also have music, dance and art specialists working across the school.



# Physical Development

We place a high priority on providing exceptional opportunities for learners to develop their physical strength and mobility and to enjoy physical activities.

# Extended Learning Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities outside of the school day both at lunchtime and after school. Clubs and activities reflect the interests and needs of each learner and include: music, sport and drama. Residential learning opportunities are provided for our older students.



## Learning and Teaching

A wide range of teaching approaches are used as appropriate to meet the needs of individual learners. We continually review our teaching methods and resources to ensure that learners receive the support they require. The school invests in training related to all the areas of special needs catered for and some teachers have additional specific qualifications.

There is a strong emphasis on life skills and preparing learners to participate in their communities. Teaching is planned and delivered to ensure that learners are able to build on their achievements.

## Our Curriculum

Known as **“My Story”** we provide a highly personalised curriculum designed about the priorities and outcomes identified in each EHC plan.

There are 4 main elements to **“My Curriculum”** These are: **“My Body,” “My Communication,” “My Thinking,”** and **“My Wellbeing”**.

These broad headings inform our planning to ensure breadth and relevance.



# Communication

The development of communicational skills is a major focus for all learners. Staff teams work in partnership with speech and language therapists. We also employ a communication specialist. Sensory literacy and reading are supported by a full-time specialist.

# Post 16 Provision

We provide further education opportunities for students aged 16 to 19 years. A greater emphasis is placed on using and developing the skills and competencies of individuals within a range of settings. We want our young people to experience a wide range of challenging and exciting activities, exercise their choices and develop their independence. To support the development of pre-vocational skills the school has a social enterprise at The Hyde shopping centre. Students also access Church Farm, as well as one of 3 FE colleges



## Personal and Social Development

Learners are given opportunities to develop skills that enable them to be as independent as possible. To make choices, to problem solve and gain confidence.

## Relationship and Sex Education

An emphasis is placed on developing learners understanding of positive, safe relationships. Careful consideration is given to ensuring that sex education is compatible with the developmental stage of each student, rather than simply their chronological age. Parents and carers may view and discuss materials and resources intended for use and have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the programme. Such a request must be made, in writing to the Headteacher.





# Religious Education

In addition to developing understanding about beliefs and faiths, learners are encouraged to reflect upon the beauty, joy and wonder of the world. They also experience activities that will encourage reflection and respect for others.

# Collective Worship

Our assemblies provide opportunities for spiritual and moral development, as well as fostering a sense of community and identity; enabling everyone to share and celebrate achievement; to learn of different faiths and cultures and promote the importance of helping and encouraging one another. Specialist “sensembles” are provided for some of our learners who have ASC.





## School Meals

Lunchtime is an important part of our school day and is a teaching session. Learners sit in class groups and it is seen as both a social activity and a time to practise skills. All food is prepared and cooked on site from fresh ingredients. There is always a choice of main courses and desert or fresh fruit. Our approach to healthy eating is carried through to break time snacks. Some of our learners in the senior part of the school have their lunch with their friends at The Barnwell Bistro. Many students in our Post 16 Department prepare their own lunch, either in our food technology room, the Post 16 kitchen or at our social enterprise (The Greenside Studio).



# Behaviour Support

We believe that by demonstrating respect for every individual we promote consideration of other people's needs and feelings. We follow "Therapeutic Thinking" which is a positive and non-aversive approach in supporting learners who display difficult behaviour. Our support for individuals with emotional and behaviour difficulties involves considering the meaning and purpose of the behaviour, teaching new skills and ensuring that any necessary changes to the environment are made. Learners will have specific support programmes prepared that are shared with parents/carers and all school staff.

# Charging Policy

We offer a range of activities both on and off site. Many activities involve additional costs that must be met, consequently we invite a half termly voluntary contribution to the school fund account and charges are made for some particular activities outside the school. All educational activities are made available to all learners regardless of the willingness or ability of parents/carers to contribute towards the cost. Parents/carers are welcome to request a copy of the school's policy on charging



## Ill Health and School Attendance

Children's health can fluctuate extremely quickly but we ask parents/carers to be as confident as they can that learners are fit to attend school. Some learners within school are very vulnerable. There are specific guidelines from School Health regarding the period of absence required for communicable diseases e.g. COVID; chickenpox, sickness and diarrhoea

## Medication

Our nursing team ensure that all medication that has been prescribed by a doctor for ongoing conditions e.g. epilepsy, asthma, is dispensed appropriately in school, including rectal diazepam or buccal midazolam. All medication should arrive in school via the escort not the learners' own bag. This is to ensure that there is no opportunity for it to be missed or inappropriately taken by another learner.



Greenside School,  
Shephall Green,  
Stevenage,  
Hertfordshire,  
SG2 9XS

Tel: 01438 315 356

Email: [admin@greenside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greenside.herts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr Alex Tomkins  
Chair of Governors: Mr Dave Smith



**Greenside School**  
Learning Achieving Together

