



**Overton
School**

Prospectus

Supporting autistic individuals to develop
independence and celebrate their individuality



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“The staff are extremely positive and supportive of our son. They recognise his capabilities, nurture his ability and value his individuality. We feel truly grateful that Caleb has the opportunity to fulfil his potential in this amazing environment.”

Mr & Mrs Baines, parents of Caleb



Every person is full of promise and potential. But we are all individuals, and ‘success’ looks different for everyone.

Welcome

At Overton School, we are specialists in supporting autistic children and young people, to achieve their own personal success stories. Everything we do is tailored to the individual, with a focus on their personal goals and passions, and a celebration of their unique achievements. We empower our students to flourish and live happy lives, with all the care and encouragement they need.



We are committed to broadening horizons and building futures.

Introduction

Overton School is a small, supportive school in Ludlow, Shropshire. We are devoted to the care and fulfilment of young people aged 7 to 18 who experience a range of special educational needs. We offer both a day-school and residential support, with a robust clinical offering.

Every day at Overton School is focused on individual growth. We enable our young people to realise their personal potential, communicate and contribute effectively, prepare for life beyond school and make a successful transition into adulthood. Our approach is holistic, considering the whole person, and delivering the curriculum in an individualised way that helps each student achieve their potential.

A place to learn and grow

The school is set in beautiful surroundings, an ideal environment for positive learning. Against this calming backdrop we help our young people re-engage with education, grow in confidence, and shape their plans for a happy, successful future.

Our skilled clinical team are on hand to help meet the unique needs of students. Students have weekly access to on-site Speech and Language, Occupational

Therapy and psychotherapeutic support, through development of our teaching staff with training, planning and documentation and through direct interventions where appropriate. It's a culture of shared knowledge, learning and best practice, to develop strategies that keep the wellbeing of our young people at the core of everything we do.

So much personal development takes place outside the classroom or therapy room.

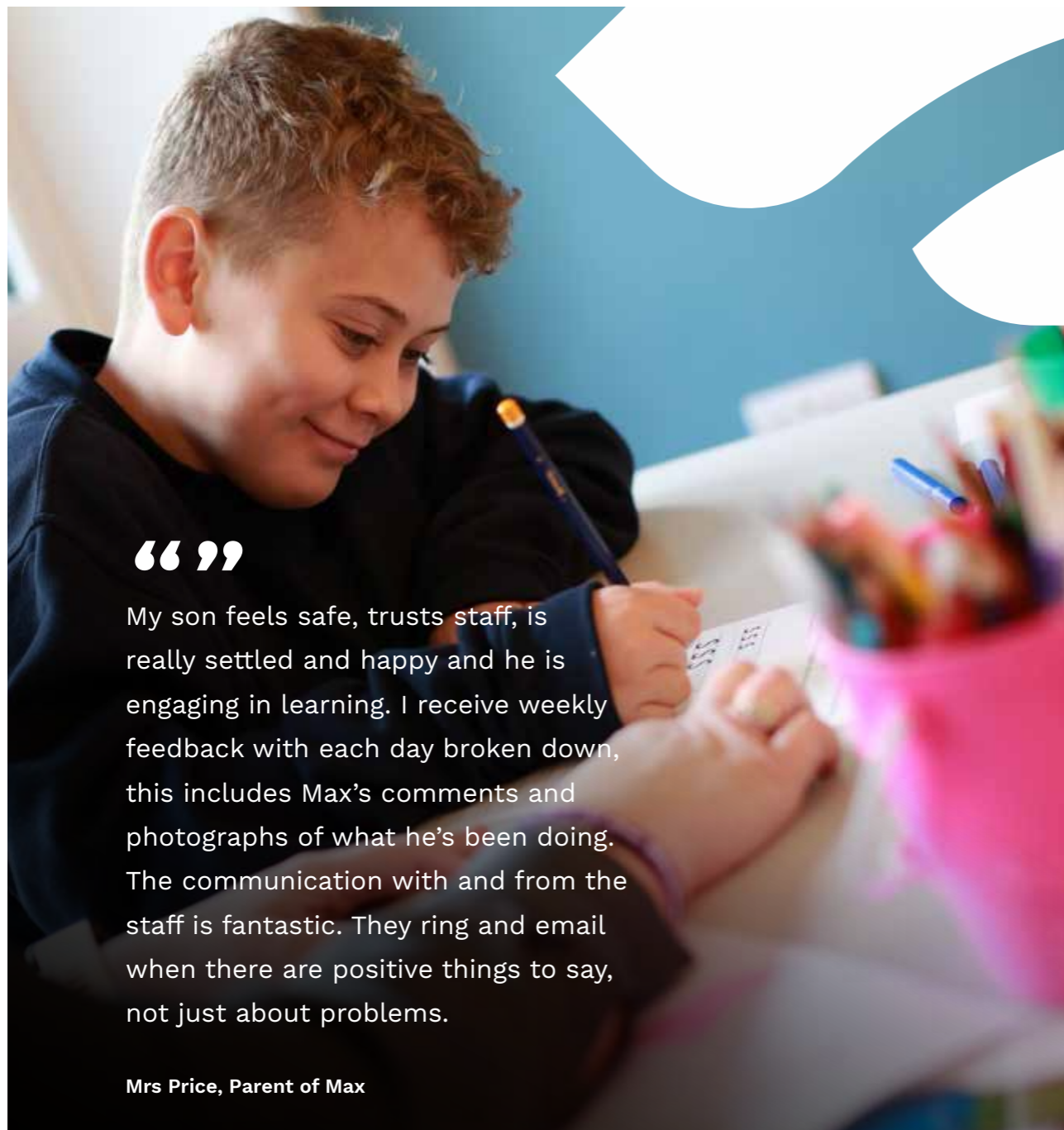
We are also proud to offer:

- Lovely grounds for outdoor activities and sports
- School hall space for a range of social and sporting activities
- Food technology facilities
- Weekly horse-riding (with qualifications)
- Forest/farm schools
- Weekly swimming
- Gym visits
- Independent skills programmes
- A range of lunchtime clubs
- Duke of Edinburgh Scheme





Overton School is committed to embracing individuality, developing independence, celebrating successes to enrich the lives of Autistic Individuals in a safe, stimulating and therapeutic environment.



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My son feels safe, trusts staff, is really settled and happy and he is engaging in learning. I receive weekly feedback with each day broken down, this includes Max's comments and photographs of what he's been doing. The communication with and from the staff is fantastic. They ring and email when there are positive things to say, not just about problems.

Mrs Price, Parent of Max

Our Aims

- Enable our students to feel safe and confident in who they are as individuals.
- Effectively prepare our students for the next steps in their life.
- Deliver a bespoke curriculum that is tailored for all with an individualised learning approach.
- Provide a learning environment that is creative, promoting positive behaviour, lifelong learning, personal development and holistic learning experiences.

Our Approach

We specialise in providing nurturing education for students with complex needs. These include autistic spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, and co-occurring needs, including ADHD, dyslexia, anxiety and attachment disorders and emotional difficulties.

Without the right support, students with specific needs can find education extremely challenging. They can quickly become disengaged from the process of learning. Autistic individuals have often experienced significant disruption in their education and can be understandably anxious at the prospect of returning to a school environment.

Our aim to make this transition into (or back into) education as smooth, supported and rewarding as possible. Overton teaching and clinical staff have extensive experience of challenging and breaking negative cycles and creating great environments for learning. Our staff aim to deliver all the necessary support needed for a young person to fulfil their potential in all areas of their development. We want to create engaged minds and happy lives.



Education goes beyond the classroom

Overton School is located on the edge of Ludlow, Shropshire. This quiet setting is far from the rush and distraction of major towns, perfect for accommodating young people with complex needs. Spacious gardens and a forest area provide easy access to nature. We want to use the school as a calm, nourishing setting for learning and creativity.

The site offers fantastic access to major towns, with plenty of amenities, such as shops, cinemas, restaurants and sporting clubs – and they are an important part of building our young peoples' confidence and broadening their horizons beyond school.

Our aims, therefore, are holistic and comprehensive. At Overton School we offer our young people a caring, consistent environment with appropriate structure. We support them in successfully re-engaging with education, developing social skills and a finding self-worth through challenge and achievement.

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We believe in a person-centred approach to education and care, looking at the whole needs of each individual, and adapting our approach accordingly.

Curriculum & Approach

We know that no two children or young people are the same. Personalities and approaches to learning differ, and the enhanced needs of autistic young people who may also have learning disabilities requires us to be agile and creative in how we help them work towards their goals.

Our curriculum pathways allow for a tailored approach, whether pursuing formal accreditation or informal learning. We can work with children and young people from Key Stage 2, all the way to Key Stages 4 and 5.

Individuality is our guiding principle

There are two curriculum pathways available at Overton School: the Equals Pathway and the Formal Pathway. These two options offer the best flexibility to meet the needs of all our pupils.

The Equals Pathway

is for our students who learn differently. It supports personal growth – teaching students to interact, self-regulate, develop independence and prepare for adulthood.

The Formal Pathway

is our adapted national curriculum. We teach the full range of subjects found in the national curriculum, but plan lessons to accommodate all learners, regardless of their previous educational experiences or starting point.



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Our son had never spent time away from home, but on his very first meeting with Nicola, he took her hand without prompting and went straight to a classroom. He has settled in wonderfully, is interacting with his peer group for the first time, and asks to go to Overton when he's at home. The staff have been amazing, communicating regularly and comprehensively and taking excellent care of him. Overton has been so good for him, encouraging him to expand his horizons and develop his skills and communication.

Mr & Mrs Tunley,
Parents of Warren



Beyond School

Life Skills Beyond School

In addition to the formal independent living skills taught at Overton School, we also develop our students' life experience more widely.

The proximity of local town centre facilities means we can support young people in becoming comfortable with accessing and participating in their community. We help familiarise them with public transport, journey and timetable planning and other life skills that help them live a full and accomplished life.

All of our young people undertake work experience that is appropriate to their strengths and needs. Our onsite options include the Swiss Rhino Café, which offers a chance to develop work skills in a comfortable, controlled environment. When an individual is ready we support them in accessing work experience in the community. Previous opportunities have included local foodbanks, shops, IT software companies and more bespoke, specialist employment experience.

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Pupils at Overton School form trusting relationships with staff. They feel safe. Staff are caring and kind. They take the time to get to know their pupils well. They pay serious attention to meeting pupils' individual needs, and to their wishes and feelings. This all helps pupils to enjoy school and achieve well.

Overton leaders want the best for every child. There is a strong emphasis on maximising independence and preparing pupils for their future lives.

Ofsted 2022



Part of
Options Autism

Get in touch or pay us a visit

We are always ready to speak to prospective parents or guardians of young people. If you have questions about our school and whether it is right for your child, get in touch.

We encourage families and professionals to visit the school, to see for yourself the difference that Overton can make in the lives of young people. We look forward to welcoming you.

Hereford Road, Ludlow, SY8 4AD

To make a referral or for more information please contact:
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www.overtonschool.org.uk