



PROSPECTUS

Empowering Learning
through Positive and
Creative Education

Welcome to Havencross
School, a new independent
SEND School coming soon to
Denton, Tameside.



We're excited to be starting our refurbishment project to create a welcoming, nurturing environment for Pupils. Phoenix has a strong reputation for providing excellent education for children aged 7-14 years (KS2-4) with SEND needs. All of our specialist schools have been regulatory rated as Good, Outstanding or have Outstanding features.

We are aiming to open Havencross School later this year, and we are already working to build a committed and inspirational team! We're looking for a Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, SENDCo, Teachers, and Teaching Assistants who are caring, creative, and enthusiastic about supporting children.



If you're passionate about inclusion, teamwork, and making a real difference in a child's life, we'd love to hear from you. Through our integrated therapeutic approach, we are committed to co-creating a school that places Pupil wellbeing and safeguarding at the centre of what we do.

We are proud to operate with fully integrated multi-disciplinary Therapies Teams embedded within our Schools, and we are therefore also looking to recruit Speech & Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Creative Therapists (e.g., Art, Drama, Music Therapy).

We can't wait for Havencross School to become a valued part of the Tameside community and surrounding areas. We look forward to meeting local families, neighbours, and future team members soon!

I look forward to hearing from you

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Jackson'.

Darren Jackson
Operations Director for Education

Havencross School at a glance

- Nurturing, safe and supportive environment
- Smaller class sizes of: 1 teacher, 1 teaching assistant & 6 pupils
- 54 places, mixed gender
- In-house integrated therapies team
- Key Stage 2-4
- 1:1 support available (where required/funded)
- Broad, balanced and engaging curriculum



Aims and Ethos

The Phoenix values of Honesty, Empathy, Aspiration, Respect and Teamwork underpin everything that we do here at Havencross School. We endeavour to utilise the appropriate innovative practices to ensure that learning is engaging, relevant, inspirational and fun!

Havencross School is an independent, co-educational school which provides day placements for Children and young people who have a diagnosis that places them on the autistic spectrum. We equally appreciate that these young people may also experience difficulties associated with social, emotional and mental health development, speech and language development, or may have been exposed to trauma and/or adverse childhood experiences.

We aim to:

- Promote a culture where pupils feel safe, secure, and have a voice
- Support and encourage pupils to take responsibility for themselves and their actions
- Provide pupils with appropriate specialist support and interventions
- Provide pupils with individualised academic and therapeutic learning plans, which focus on development of their Emotional Literacy, Independence, Cognition, Creativity and Expression, and Physical and Sensory skills
- Provide a broad, balanced, and relevant curriculum that meets each pupil's needs and focuses on Linguistic, Mathematical, Scientific, Technological, Human and Social, Physical, Aesthetic and Creative education
- Increase self-esteem, self-regulation, and independence
- Know our pupils' strengths through robust baseline assessments, rigorous progress monitoring and celebrating small steps of development
- Provide pupils with the skills to keep themselves safe
- Provide all pupils with a high-quality education regardless of their background, gender, sexuality, religion, or race
- Support pupils in developing positive relationships with others
- Provide pupils with the independence to move on to KS4 and eventually the world of work
- Work in partnership with pupils, carers, and other professionals as an effective multidisciplinary team

Our Operational Model

A Consistent and Proven Approach

Therapeutic, Trauma-Informed Practice:

In line with existing Phoenix schools, Havencross School will adopt a trauma-informed approach embedded in daily practice. The PACE model (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy), already successfully implemented across our schools, underpins relationship building and emotional regulation across all interactions. The aim is to create a safe, predictable environment where pupils feel secure, understood, and ready to engage with learning.

Integrated Therapeutic Support:

The school will benefit from an Integrated Therapies Team, providing in-house access to a multidisciplinary group of professionals, including speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, creative therapists, and psychological support as part of a core offer. Therapeutic approaches are embedded throughout the school day, enabling responsive, individualised support that reflects each Pupil's needs.

At Phoenix, we are proud to offer a dedicated therapies resource, designed specifically to support the diverse individuals we work with. Led by Dr Hannah Pittaway and Dr Ben Smith (D.Clin.Psy.), the team delivers a carefully developed therapeutic programme tailored to our settings. Examples of our individual therapies are outlined below.



Personalised and Aspirational Curriculum

The curriculum at Havencross School will mirror the structure and ethos of our other schools, with a strong emphasis on personalisation. Academic pathways will be tailored to each pupil, with a focus on core literacy and numeracy, functional skills, and a breadth of subjects to foster engagement and aspiration. Pupils will have access to enrichment, vocational experiences, and opportunities for external accreditation, supporting positive outcomes in education and life.



Small, Nurturing Learning Environments

As with other Phoenix schools, Havencross will operate with small class sizes (1:5 as core) and high team member-to-pupil ratios to support a relational approach to education. Class teams will be equipped to respond to the emotional and developmental needs of pupils, creating a setting in which each young person is known, valued, and supported to thrive. Classrooms are supported by low-arousal environment where the sensory needs of pupils are supported alongside integration within social classroom activities. This approach removes barriers to education and supports pupil voice and the need to self-regulate when things prove to much of a challenge for them.



Whole-Child Development

Social communication, emotional regulation, independence, and life skills will be embedded across the curriculum and wider school life, supporting Pupils academically, socially, and personally, and preparing them for successful transitions into further education, training, or supported living.

Havencross School builds on what already works well across Phoenix Schools, using established learning to shape its design, curriculum, and therapeutic offer. This trusted approach provides a consistent, high-quality experience, focused on bridging the gap between home and school and supporting Pupils who have struggled to access mainstream or specialist provision.



Our Curriculum Across Key Stages 2–4

Havencross School will deliver a broad, balanced curriculum across Key Stages 2, 3 and 4, personalised through each Pupil's Learning Journey and informed by EHCP outcomes, ILPs, family partnership, and integrated therapies. Clear progression from entry to exit prepares Pupils for further education, employment, independence, and active citizenship, supported by outdoor learning, practical experiences, and use of local environments.

Building on the proven Phoenix Schools model, the curriculum is ambitious, well sequenced, and consistent, with a strong focus on reading, communication, and holistic development. Learning remains broad and aspirational across all key stages, with smooth transitions, high expectations, and responsive assessment systems, including BSquared where appropriate. Communication, emotional regulation, independence, life skills, and self-advocacy are embedded throughout school life.



These images are from The Grange School in Thatcham and are included to illustrate how Havencross School could look.

Key Stage 2 – Nurture

Pupils learn in flexible groups based on need rather than age, within a highly nurturing, thematic curriculum. Targeted literacy and numeracy support sits alongside strong social, emotional, and moral development, with learning personalised through EHCP outcomes and reviewed regularly to ensure progress.

Key Stage 3 – Flourish

The curriculum broadens and deepens subject knowledge while strengthening communication, reading, and emotional readiness for learning. Pupils access a wide range of subjects, supported by therapeutic input and specialist spaces, with clear progression mapped towards Key Stage 4.

Key Stage 4 – Grow

An ambitious and personalised curriculum enables Pupils to work towards appropriate qualifications and accredited outcomes. Learning builds on earlier foundations, with a strong focus on literacy, numeracy, vocational experiences, and preparation for adulthood, including independence, wellbeing, and careers guidance.



CONTACT

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