

PROSPECTUS

Empowering Learning through Positive and Creative Education



Welcome to Havencross School

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Head Teacher's Welcome



At Havencross School, we believe that every pupil deserves to be understood, valued and given the opportunity to thrive. Our vision is built upon strong relationships, therapeutic practice and a deep commitment to the personal development of every pupil in our care.

We recognise that each pupil arrives with their own unique strengths, experiences and aspirations. Taking the time to truly know our pupils is at the heart of everything we do. By building trusting, meaningful relationships, we create a safe and nurturing environment where children feel understood, respected and confident to be themselves.

Our therapeutic approach ensures that wellbeing sits alongside academic learning. We understand that children learn best when they feel secure, connected and supported. Through collaboration with families, specialist professionals and our dedicated team members, we provide a personalised learning experience that helps every pupil achieve success in a way that is meaningful to them. Our integrated therapy brings together a Creative Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist and an Occupational Therapist. Working collaboratively with pupils, families and team members, they ensure that therapeutic support is embedded within every interaction, lesson and experience, creating a cohesive approach that empowers pupils to develop confidence, independence and lifelong skills.

We are committed to ensuring that every pupil makes progress towards their EHCP outcomes, with carefully tailored support that enables them to achieve their individual goals and aspirations. We are passionate about helping pupils build confidence, resilience, independence and the skills they need to navigate life beyond the classroom. We celebrate progress in all its forms and encourage our pupils to develop a strong sense of self-worth, belonging and ambition for their futures.

We are proud to be creating a school community where every child is seen, heard and valued. Together, we are building an environment where our pupils can flourish both personally and academically, supported by team members who genuinely care and who believe in their potential.

Danielle Hulme
Headteacher

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 classes of six pupils, supported by one teacher and one teaching assistant, providing a nurturing environment and supporting 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 provide low-arousal environments 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 too 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.

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

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.

Main policies are available on our website and all others are available on request.

Contact Us



If you would like to find out more about Havencross School please contact:

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Part of the Phoenix Learning and Care Group

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havencross school

Havencross School adheres to the values of the Phoenix Learning and Care Group: Honesty, Empathy, Aspiration, Respect and Teamwork - our values that go to make the HEART of Phoenix.