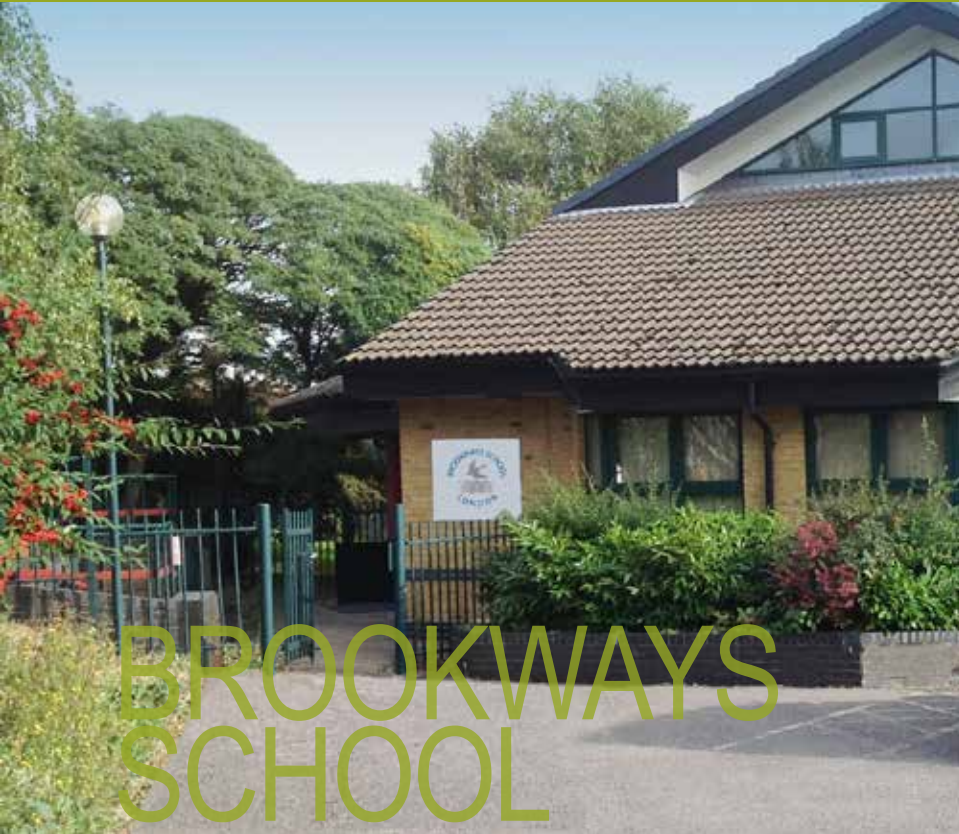




BROOKWAYS SCHOOL LONDON

Learning and Growing



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Learning and Growing the Brookways' Way

Brookways School London is a new, independent, specialist day school which provides education for boys and girls who are on the autism spectrum and who have complex needs. We are able to offer places to children living with autism, including Asperger's Syndrome, higher functioning autism, social emotional and mental health issues, moderate learning difficulties, ADHD and other challenges. The age range at the school is between seven and 16 years and we are registered to take up to 40 students.

**BRIGHT
RESILIENT
OPTIMISTIC
OPEN
KIND
WAYS**

Brookways School London

The school provides the local area with a specially designed learning environment which has been created to meet the needs of children and young people with autism. The school has been created to provide a calm, quiet, low arousal, safe, positive and nurturing place where children can learn and grow.

Class sizes are very small and classrooms are 'enabling environments' with sensory lighting, muted colours, individual work stations and visual timetables. The curriculum is designed to meet the specific academic, social, emotional and sensory needs of each individual child. Through close partnerships with families, professionals and the wider community, Brookways will ensure that all children who attend the school thrive.

Therapeutic Support

Education and support staff work alongside and collaborate with therapeutic staff, mirroring the diverse and creative staff team of Brookways' sister school in East London – Leaways.

All students benefit from a range of whole school approaches: sensory friendly spaces, a visual communication system, individual, personalised programmes designed by education and therapeutic specialist staff.

The therapeutic team matches the needs of the students and is made up of an Occupational Therapist and a Speech and Language Therapist. As the school grows, we will also employ an occupational therapy assistant and a therapeutic arts facilitator.



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Learning and Growing

The Curriculum

Brookways curriculum is broadly in line with the national curriculum and adapted to meet the abilities, needs and interests of each individual student. Literacy and numeracy will be at its heart so that every child and young person has the strong foundations needed for learning and life. English, maths and science will be taught to all children in all key stages.

Social and communication skills are embedded in the curriculum with timetabled lessons focusing on social skills, turn taking, listening and responding. As well as formal, classroom learning we place a high value on learning beyond the classroom. The children are supported to go on regular trips and visits to a wide range of cultural, social and educational venues.

This year at Brookways' sister school, Leaways trips have been organised to West End theatres, Museum of Childhood, Imperial War Museum, Natural History Museum, Museum of London, London Transport Museum, the cinema, bowling, London Zoo, pantomime at the Hackney Empire and a four day residential school journey to Kingswood Outdoor Activity Centre in Ashford, Kent.

Brookways' curriculum is designed and delivered so that children and young people engage with their learning. We foster a love of learning with a strong focus on the progress of every individual.



Curriculum and Qualifications

KS 2, 3 and 4: English, maths, science, PE, humanities (history, geography, RE), art, food, drama, PSHE, social skills. Regular trips and educational visits.

KS4 Examinations

GCSE's

- Maths
- English Language

Entry Level Certificates

- Science

Functional Skills – Entry Levels 1 2 & 3 and Level 1

- English
- Maths

BTEC

- Home Cooking Skills Levels 1 & 2

Facilities

- Main central area for dining, assemblies, drama, movement and social time
- Separate, small, and specially lit classrooms
- Private, gated outdoor play and study areas

As we grow we will be adding a science laboratory, a food room and a larger performing arts space as well as a separate social area for older students.

Outcomes

Brookways supports students to gain the knowledge, skills and qualifications from P-Level right through to GCSEs along with a range of other vocational qualifications.

Brookways sister school, Leaways is proud that every student leaves with a college placement, work or vocational course in place for them to move on to. We will be mirroring this success for the students at Brookways.

At every stage of their education we focus on preparing students for the next stage, putting the development of their independence at the heart of everything we do. Our ultimate goal is for all our students to be confident and capable young people who leave school equipped to lead fulfilling lives in this rapidly changing world.



The Staff



Melanie Whitfield BA
Hons, PGCE, NPQH

Melanie is the Head Teacher of Brookways School. She qualified as a teacher in 1990 and spent the first twenty three years of her career working in two challenging

inner city secondary schools in the London Borough of Lewisham. Both schools had significant numbers of children with Special Educational Needs and behavioural challenges. Melanie progressed from part time Drama and Music teacher in 1990 to Head Teacher in 2008.

In 2013 Melanie took the decision to move away from mainstream education and into special education. Melanie began leading a small unit for KS3 autistic children with additional and complex needs and by summer 2015 had grown that small unit into a stand-alone ASC school of twenty five children with a Primary Class and a Sixth Form provision.

By September of 2015 Melanie had been recruited by the Kedleston Group to develop a standalone provision for children with autism and additional and complex needs in their East London School, Leaways. Named as the ARC by the children (Autism Resource for Children) the Unit is full; students are thriving both socially and academically (with all older students gaining Functional Skills examinations this summer) and very high levels of satisfaction are reported by parents and students alike. Ofsted described teaching in the provision as 'outstanding'.

Melanie has three adult children, one of whom has special needs and a grandson with autism.

Staff Team

Melanie has recruited a diverse, creative and nurturing staff team. All teachers have SEN experience and are supported by specialist ASC support staff to deliver a wide range of learning experiences. All staff have continuous professional development plans in place. Staff training is built into the weekly meeting schedule for all staff.



Families

Teaching and support staff work directly with families to encourage a positive relationship between the family, student and the school. The school works hard to develop strong relationships with families, local NAS groups and other external stakeholders. We welcome families and carers who would like to be a part of Brookways PTA, including those for whom English is a second language. It is important that everyone's voice is heard in the Brookways School community.

These are quotes by families and students from our recent student and parent feedback from the Autism Resource for Children at Brookways sister school Leaways in East London. We will be working towards obtaining more of the same positive comments for Brookways as the school begins to grow as a community.

"Firstly, thank you for helping her to settle in so well and supporting her start at the ARC. I believe you will all help her to achieve her potential in a safe environment with great staff to support her on her journey."

Parent

"This school is fun
I love the ARC"

Student

"L is so much happier coming to the school and always tell me what he has done when he comes home from school."

Parent

"I have also realised I am brave, as I have done things I didn't think I would like."

Student

"Thank you for being amazing teachers."

Student

"I would like to say how grateful I am for the excellent work being done, academically and socially."

Parent

Governance, Quality and Compliance

The Kedleston Group operates a robust approach to ensuring all of the schools are fully compliant with all appropriate standards and legislation.

Each school is required to have a full governance meeting on a termly basis which is led by the Principal or Head Teacher and will always include appropriate members of the Kedleston senior leadership team and be attended by the Chief Executive or Chief Operating Officer. On occasions the governance meetings will also be attended by one of the company's non-executive directors.

A comprehensive programme of audits undertaken by each member of the Kedleston senior leadership team for their respective areas of responsibility forms part of the governance process along with regularly commissioned external audits of the education provision and previous Ofsted inspection reports.

A sub-committee of the board has responsibility for overseeing governance, quality and compliance which is chaired by a non-executive director and meets termly.

Safeguarding

The Kedleston Group Safeguarding Lead is responsible for ensuring that rigorous safeguarding arrangements are in place across the group, and that each school operates in accordance with the guidelines of each Local Safeguarding Children's Board and other regulatory and statutory boards.

A detailed safeguarding audit is undertaken on a termly basis of each school and the

Group Safeguarding Lead will also chair the various local safeguarding committee meetings to ensure that all safeguarding concerns are dealt with and responded to appropriately and that lessons learned and best practice is shared across the Group.

The Group Safeguarding Lead reports directly to the Safeguarding Overview Committee which comprises of two non-executive directors, one of whom has extensive knowledge and experience of the children's sector, the Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer.

The Safeguarding Overview Committee is a sub-committee of the Kedleston Group Board and meets monthly.

Training

Brookways School is supported by Kedleston Group's national and local training programme. The organisation offers both new and existing staff specialist training in addition to the induction and mandatory training which all staff complete. Centralised training includes and is not limited to safeguarding, SEND code of practice, online safety, equality and diversity and data protection.

All professional staff working directly with young people are trained in challenging behaviour, positive behaviour management, and Team-Teach. In addition to this Brookways provide staff with training in Prevent, FGM, Keeping Children Safe in Education, Attachment Disorder, Speech and Language, Occupation Therapy awareness, Autism and Mental Health. The school works in partnership with and accesses training and support from the Autism Education Trust.

Contact:

At Brookways School it is unlikely that we would refuse a placement based on EHC plans alone, we would always seek to meet the young person and their family before any decision is made.

The school has excellent travel links with easy access to the local community, further education colleges and potential employers.

We offer free translation services and can provide information about the school in different languages and formats on request.

For further information please contact:

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