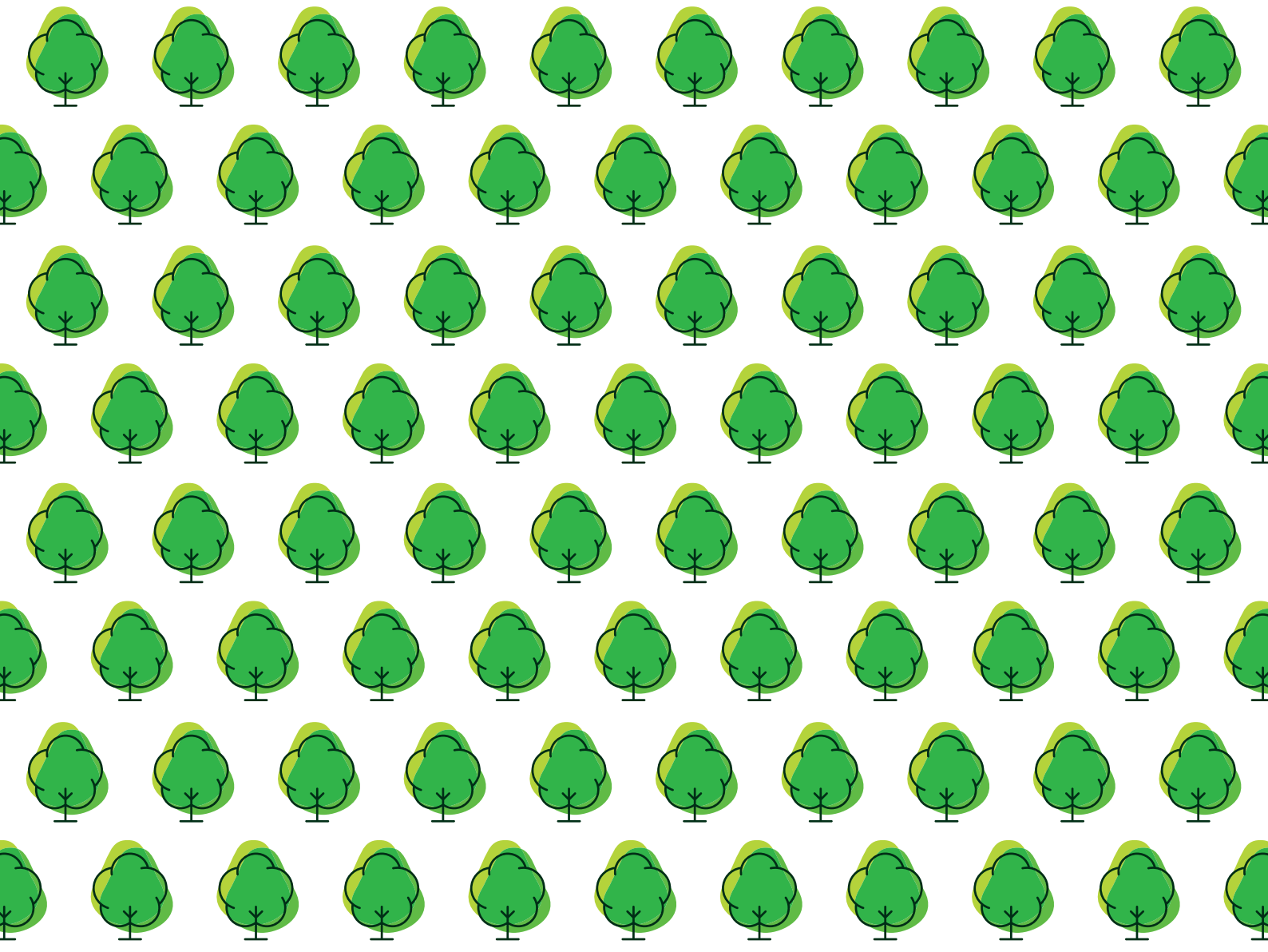


# Groveside School

## **Prospectus**





**Groveside School is a brand-new independent specialist school in Reading for young people aged 7-16 who have a range of complex needs, including social, emotional and mental health (SEMH), communication and interaction and associated challenging behaviour.**

Part of Acorn Education, Groveside provides a therapeutic educational approach within a custom-built environment with specialised facilities to enable students to flourish.

## Welcome to Groveside School

Our aim at Groveside is very simple: we want to equip every child with the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to be successful in their future.

We recognise that for many of our pupils, their experience of education so far been difficult, which is why we think creatively about our approach to learning. We look beyond any issues and barriers to learning and recognise the innate potential within each pupil.

We invest time with each individual pupil to fully understand their learning needs and put the right support package in place.

Our expectations are very high for both behaviour and achievement, because we know we can help children make much more progress than they would within a mainstream school environment.

We pride ourselves on preparing our pupils for the next stage of their lives, not just academically but socially and emotionally. All of our pupils are encouraged to reach high standards in every aspect.

Our staff team are passionate about supporting our pupils, who will benefit from deep and nurturing relationships that will motivate, inspire and push them to succeed in ways they perhaps never thought possible.

**Lauren Wright, Chair of Governors**

## Groveside School will:







## Our Ethos

All pupils at Groveside School will have access to an education that is personalised and engaging and encompasses a purposeful and balanced curriculum.

We believe the word 'curriculum' should be interpreted in its widest meaning. It is every planned learning experience, both formally within a lesson and informally outside the classroom throughout the whole school day.

It is all the planned activities we organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. Teachers, instructors and support workers structure these experiences to ensure that they have the most positive effect on the progress and personal development of all pupils.

Our staff team are passionate about providing a caring, structured learning environment in which all pupils can develop to their full potential.

We recognise the importance of truly understanding each young person as an individual, fostering the development of positive relationships and delivering the most effective support.

We recognise that success can take many forms and looks different for each individual, and it will be regularly celebrated.

We have a commitment to high standards and a relentless drive to remove barriers that may have prevented pupils from engaging in education in the past, developing a community with a shared sense of purpose.

## Our Curriculum

The overall aim of our curriculum is to enable all our pupils to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. It is delivered by qualified, skilled, empathetic and experienced staff within a warm, safe, nurturing and state-of-the art learning environment.

We offer a flexible, personalised, engaging skills-based curriculum, which provides both choice and challenge. It is focussed on developing core subject knowledge, emotional literacy, and offers a wide range of accredited outcomes.

There is a strong focus on the social and emotional aspects of learning and we focus on life skills throughout the curriculum where Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) runs alongside everything that we do.

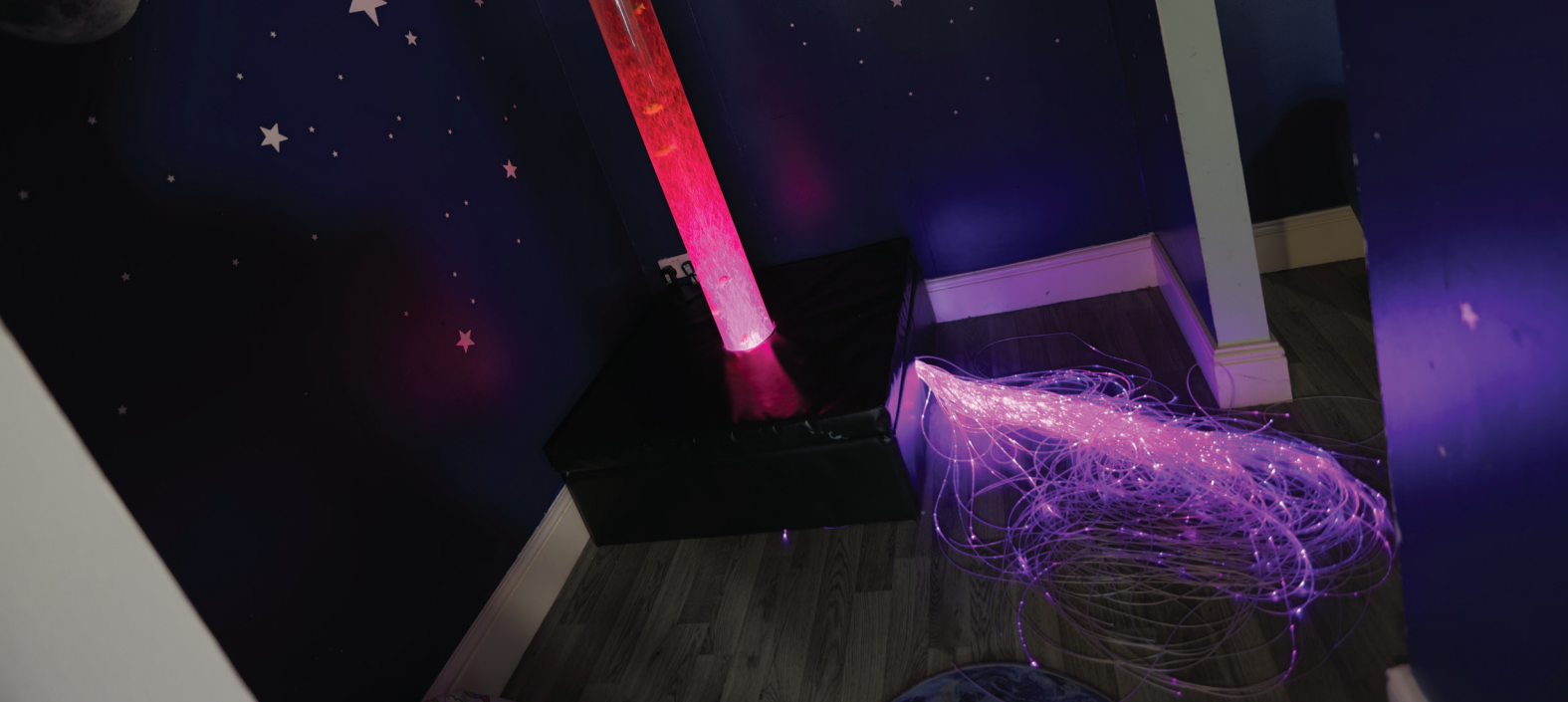
By building strong relationships and knowledge of our pupils, we are able to build pathways which ensure that each individual is able to pursue subjects they wish to study, talents are nurtured, opportunities are experienced and learning leads to positive outcomes.

## Curriculum Objectives

- **Broad & Balanced:** Academic, creative, therapeutic, life skills and vocational opportunities. As many opportunities/experiences as possible to offer a motivating education that can develop talents in addition to having the opportunity to explore.
- **Curriculum Pathways:** Equipping individuals for THEIR future, securing outcomes and qualifications to enable future success and achievement. Every child to have a positive next destination;
- **High Expectations:** Support individuals in developing self-belief, self-discovery and self-confidence to enable them to develop high expectations of themselves;
- **Impact:** In everything we offer, everything will be purposeful and have impact. We recognise that our education must motivate our young people and raise their confidence and self-esteem;
- **Challenge:** To support the needs of individuals with accepting and responding to challenge, making mistakes, learning from mistakes and supporting others with their challenge;
- **Responsibility:** Every individual to take responsibility, accept support, support others, contributing to being a successful member of the community.







## Our therapeutic approach

Groveside School offers a therapeutic educational approach with a staff team dedicated and determined to support every individual and a pastoral area that offers purposeful break out, sensory and individual learning spaces.

As well as delivering the best possible education, we also have access to a clinical team who provide care and therapy to benefit our pupils. Clinical support may include:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Counselling / Psychotherapy
- Other types of therapy as required

Our team works with pupils, well as their parents or carers, to agree a support plan which will become part of their school life, enabling them to build on their strengths and increase their resilience.

Behaviour is understood as a form of communication and all staff work together to enable the healthy physical, social, and emotional development of each student.

Our holistic approach and safe and nurturing environment enables us to give our pupils the space and opportunity to grow in confidence, to take on leadership roles and to learn the value of risk taking, perseverance and even making mistakes in an environment free from some of the social pressures which our young people face.

## Our facilities

Groveside School is set on a spacious, purpose built site with designated spaces for the Lower and Upper School, allowing us to offer all-through education and ease of transition between the primary and secondary stages.

Accommodating children between the ages of 7 – 16, careful consideration has been given to the layout of the spaces to ensure that all children are provided with bright and engaging classrooms and social areas, appropriate to their age, whilst ensuring a whole school community is nurtured and developed.

The school has an indoor hall, an outdoor sport area, sensory garden, sensory and therapeutic spaces, a suite of specialised learning areas and spacious classrooms. From a fully equipped science lab to an inspirational art and design learning space, our aim is to foster talents and interests and develop individual skills and confidence.

Throughout the school, there are also a number of central spaces designed to support our pupils and encourage social time with others.

## Admission Criteria

- Pupils will be aged between 7-16 years old
- All pupils will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- The EHCP will specify that social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs is a primary or secondary area of need
- Pupils may have learning difficulties and/or low attainment that are associated with their SEMH needs
- Pupils may have specific learning difficulties associated with SEMH, a range of complex learning and communication needs and additional needs or diagnosis
- Pupils may be admitted on the basis of their need for therapeutic support.

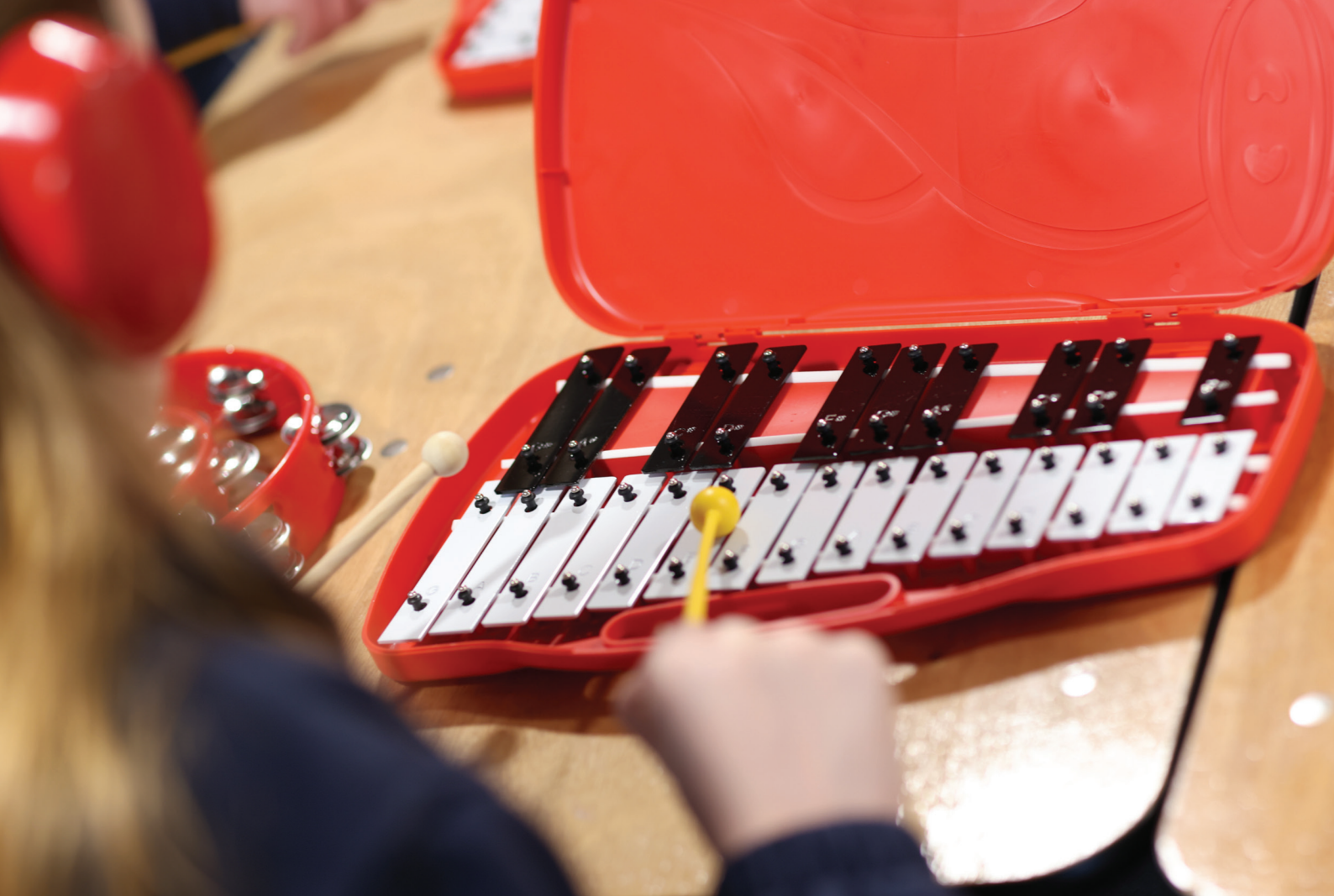
## Admissions Process

All pupils admitted to Groveside School will have been initially referred by their Local Authority (LA). If, after reviewing the information provided, the school believes that the pupil meets the admission criteria, arrangements will be made with the LA for the parents/carers and pupil to visit the school.

The visit will include a tour of the school, introduction to key staff and a meeting at which the school policies and curriculum are discussed. Visitors will have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

If, following these visits, all parties are agreed that the pupil's needs can be met at the school and that the pupil and parent/carers are committed to the placement, arrangements will be made for admission.





## Contact Us

### **Groveside School**

40 Christchurch Road,  
Reading,  
RG2 7AY

To make a referral or for more  
information please contact:  
Admissions Manager, Amanda Jones

**Email:** [amanda.jones@ofgl.uk](mailto:amanda.jones@ofgl.uk)



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