



PROSPECTUS

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF
EXCELLENCE IN AUTISM EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT





Welcome

Dear Students, Families, and Colleagues,

It is a privilege to serve as the Headteacher of Abbot's Lea School – an international centre of excellence in autism education, research, and professional development.

Rated *Outstanding* by Ofsted, and a winner of numerous prestigious awards, our school is recognised as a provider of the highest quality education to students aged 3 to 19 who, due to autism, cognitive learning differences, and associated complex needs, benefit from specialist provision.

Our mission is to enable every student to succeed academically, personally, and socially, and to reach their full potential.

Our school is located in Woolton, Liverpool, a city with a rich cultural heritage. For more than 70 years, our campus has been dedicated to specialist education. We combine tradition with innovation to provide students with academic study, specialist therapeutic support, and the development of vital life skills. This equips them both for success today and for a smoothest possible transition into adulthood.

We are committed to providing each student with a personalised journey toward becoming

confident, happy, and successful, with clear pathways for the future. We achieve this by working in close partnership with families and by ensuring that students' voices and priorities shape their learning.

At Abbot's Lea School, every member of staff is considered a leader, modelling our core values and demonstrating a commitment to continuous professional growth and research-led practice.

This prospectus offers an introduction to our work. Our doors are always open to welcome new students, families, and staff, and I warmly encourage you to contact me directly with any questions – or simply to say hello.

Our vision is to become the leading specialist school in the world, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Hildrey".

Mrs A Hildrey

Headteacher

FCCT, B.Ed(Hons), M.Ed, NPQH, NPQEL





School Vision and Mission Statement ©

To be the international Centre of Excellence in Autism education,
research and professional development

School Aims ©

- To provide outstanding education to the students
- To work in united partnership with the families
- To recruit, develop and retain the best professionals
- To lead innovation and positive change in the field of Autism
- To use the resources available for the greatest benefit of the school

School Motto ©

Abbot's Lea is the best specialist school in the world!

Our Code of Conduct ©

- Be here. Every day...
- Work hard and be nice
- Never give upon yourself or others
- Stay positive and be happy!

Philosophy of Education – The ASD Model ©

- Academic Progress
- Specialist Support
- Development of Life Skills



Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to promote academic achievement, offer specialist therapeutic support, and enhance the development of life skills.

We create a needs-led curriculum, ensuring that our resources – both human and material – are optimised for each individual student and learning cohort.

Our ALS Three Tier Curriculum offer includes:

1. Adapted National Curriculum (ANC)

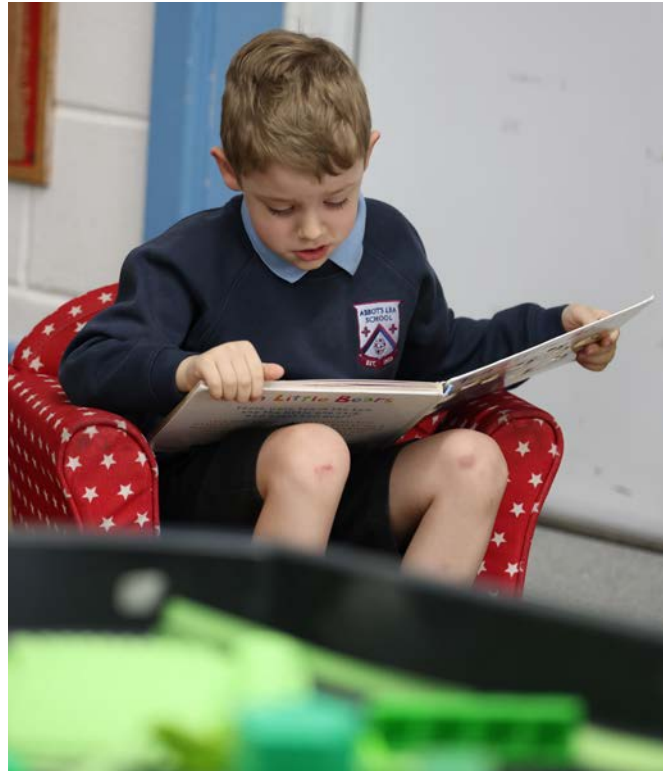
We modify the National Curriculum to accommodate the unique needs of our students, ensuring that each student’s learning is tailored to their level of development and prior knowledge.

2. Bespoke Provision (BP)

This provision focuses on students who are working consistently below, or just at the start of the National Curriculum. Learning is designed with a strong emphasis on enhancing social communication, development of emotional regulation through a wide range of play-based and experiential opportunities.

3. Flexible Provision (FP)

For students who experience significant difficulty in attending school or engaging in ANC or BP class-based learning, our Flexible Provision offers personalised pathways, with a focus on personal interests, skill-building, raising aspirations and enhancing future destination planning. Learning is a mixture of on-site and off-site activities, with the aim of integration into the classroom, or a personally planned managed move to another school setting, or next destination in life-long learning and personal development, or a supported social care setting.





Primary Department

Our Primary Department includes:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (ages 4-5, Reception)
- Key Stage 1 (ages 5-7, Year 1 and 2)
- Key Stage 2 (ages 7-11, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Each student is assigned to a class which is most suitable to their stage of development and skills. Movement in-year and year-on-year is to be expected, and some students join individual lessons with other classes, where this is seen as most beneficial for their progress and achievement.

Education is managed by a named dedicated Class Teacher, who ensures that their wellbeing and academic progress are prioritised, and additional support is provided by our committed and highly trained support staff.

Students in our Primary Department develop foundations necessary for progression onto the secondary phase in their education, and most transition into year 7, remaining at Abbot's Lea School.



Secondary Department

Our Secondary Department serves students in:

- Key Stage 3 (ages 11-14, Years 7, 8 and 9)
- Key Stage 4 (ages 14-16, Years 10 and 11)
- Key Stage 5 (ages 16-19, Years 12, 13 and 14)

The curriculum continues to focus on personalised learning, preparing students for their transition to adulthood. Opportunities for accreditation and vocational experiences are provided, with an emphasis on developing independence, self-organisation, and teamwork.



Post-16 Options

Students leaving Abbot's Lea School at the end of Key Stage 5 may pursue a variety of pathways, including further education, employment, or supported living. Our staff, supported by independent Career Advice and Guidance service providers work closely with students to ensure they make informed decisions about their future.



Multi-Disciplinary Team

Our Multi-Disciplinary Team ensures that every student at Abbot's Lea School remains safe, healthy, and happy. We provide a range of specialist services, including:

- Safeguarding
- Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy

- Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy
- Therapies Assistance

We use Our ALS **Three-Tier Therapy Model** © – an approach of a structured framework for delivering support to students based on their specific needs. This model divides interventions into three levels: **Universal**, **Targeted**, and **Specialist**. Each tier represents a progressively more intensive level of support.

Our Safeguarding Team and Family Involvement

We believe that successful outcomes are achieved through strong partnerships between home and school.

Our Safeguarding Team provides practical and emotional support to families, ensuring that they are fully engaged in their child's education.

Regular events and coffee mornings foster a sense of community, and our Parent-Teacher-Friend Association (FAB!) organises fundraising and social activities throughout the year.



1. Universal Tier (Tier 1)

This tier is provided to all students within the classroom as part of their general education and wellbeing support. It is designed to promote overall development, prevent problematic issues arising or help de-escalate them through positive, proactive pastoral support. Universal interventions typically include whole-school or classroom strategies that aim to enhance learning, emotional wellbeing, and positive behaviours.

- **Who benefits:** All students
- **Focus:** Promoting a healthy learning environment and preventing problems before they emerge
- **Examples:** School-wide anti-bullying programmes, social skills development, and classroom-based mindfulness or emotional regulation exercises

2. Targeted Tier (Tier 2)

Targeted support is provided to students who require additional help beyond the universal interventions. These students may be experiencing difficulties that are more specific, such as mild learning, behavioural, or emotional challenges, and need focused interventions to address their particular needs. Support at this level is often designed by specific therapeutic specialist and delivered in the classroom through more individualised targeted set of strategies, with regular quality assurance and, if needed, adjustments, by the overseeing therapist.

- **Who benefits:** Students identified as at-risk or needing more specific help than their peers.
- **Focus:** Early intervention to prevent escalation of challenges.
- **Examples:** Small group social skills training, short-term behavioural interventions, or focused academic support for struggling learners.

3. Specialist Tier (Tier 3)

This tier involves highly individualised and intensive support for students with complex or significant needs that cannot be adequately addressed through universal or targeted interventions. Specialist interventions are designed and/or overseen by highly trained professionals such as speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, or educational psychologists. These services are tailored to address severe difficulties and often require coordination between multiple specialists.

- **Who benefits:** Students with complex or severe needs requiring intensive, individualised support.
- **Focus:** Providing specialist, often multi-disciplinary, interventions for the most challenging cases.
- **Examples:** One-on-one therapy sessions, personalised educational plans, and long-term interventions for students with significant developmental or behavioural issues.

This model ensures that all students receive the appropriate level of support, with the intensity of intervention increasing according to individual needs. It is flexible and responsive, allowing for movement between tiers as a student's needs change.



Leadership and Student Voice



Student Council

We encourage our students to express their views and play an active role in shaping the school's future. The Student Council is integral to our vision of distributed

leadership, and their contributions are key to our ongoing development.

Head Student

Each year, a senior student is appointed as Head Student, working closely with the Headteacher to

represent the school in internal and external matters, and to welcome new students, families, and visitors.

Focus Groups

Students are encouraged to identify key areas of interest and importance to them and, through a range of focus groups, to debate and troubleshoot complex

problems and make positive suggestions about potential solutions. These focus groups operate within the school, with other schools and external bodies.





Buddying and mentoring

Select senior students and those who have been at ALS for longer, act as role models, buddies and mentors for our younger learners, and those new to the school. This provides them with an opportunity to make a difference

to the lives of others, and it provides those in need of support and guidance with a familiar friendly face when navigating starting school or a new phase of education.

Schools' Parliament

We prepare all students for life in a modern world. Promoting fundamental British values and global citizenship, we have representation on the Liverpool

School's Parliament, giving a voice to our school community in matters closest to young people of today.

Global Schools Alliance

We work to be the international centre of excellence and as such, we open to learning with, and from others around the globe. We have international partner schools, and we always look to make new friends and acquaintances around the world. Our international

partnerships allow our younger students to correspond with peers in other countries, whilst our senior students travel internationally and host visits from partner organisations.





CONTACT US

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