



Prospectus

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WENSUMTRUST



For children, families and communities

Your Wensum
Trust Journey



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At The Wensum Trust, all 11 of our schools share the ethos that education is far broader and deeper than just the national curriculum and exams.



By arranging our schools into geographical hubs, we create seamless transitions between our settings to provide a complete education journey from early years to sixteen-plus – and with all our schools working in partnership to use their shared knowledge, facilities and community spaces, we provide inspiring and meaningful curriculums and pupil experiences.

The Trust has high aspirations for all children, regardless of their background.

Mental health and wellbeing is at the foundation of all we do to ensure children are in a position where they can engage with their

learning, form friendships and have a sense of belonging. As a Trust we have adopted a relational approach where positive relationships are key and behaviour is seen as a form of communication.

Through our partnerships, we are committed to providing rich, diverse experiences which enable every child to develop, flourish and reach their full potential.

Our desire is to give every child the opportunity to discover what they enjoy and where they excel, and to develop engaged and happy children who enjoy school.

Our vision

The Wensum Trust is a family of schools that believes in putting the children and families within our local communities at the centre of all we do.

Our vision is to work together to help every child to develop into high achieving, confident, healthy, caring and resilient members of their family and community; creating a pathway to support their career aspirations, independence and contribution to society.



From our chair, John Smith

The Trust was formed in 2016 with a key aim of bringing together like-minded schools in a structure that would support the wellbeing of our young people and greatly improve their educational journey. I hope as you read through this prospectus you will be excited by what we are doing.

Our structure and operating model have enabled the Trust to maximise efficiencies and to make significant investments across all three elements of our strategic framework.

The impact of our approach is particularly evident at Acle Academy which was the first academy to join the Trust as a school that had been placed in Special Measures. Together with the hard work and dedication of the school staff Acle is now recognised by Ofsted as a Good school.



Most recently the Board of Trustees agreed a significant investment in Hellesdon High School to improve the teaching, learning and pastoral facilities for all students and to give our Sixth Form students a truly special and motivational space for learning.

We have also invested in specialist roles and the Trust has its own Educational Psychologist and a Strategic Lead for Attachment and Trauma. These roles are unique to the Trust and, together with the support of our Strategic Partners, are greatly enhancing our ability to help our young people engage in education and to realise their full potential and ambitions.

The Trust's focus on helping and supporting our young people goes beyond the schools in the Trust and I am keen to highlight our collaboration with the Local Authority to establish a Special Resource Base (SRB) at Arden Grove Infant School which was opened in April 2022. Further SRBs will be opened at Alderman Peel High School and Acle Academy which will see the Trust deliver the majority of specialist places in Norfolk.

As a proactive Trust, we continue to actively engage with all key figures and agencies in education. The Department for Education has asked us to continue to run the English Hub for Norfolk. This is based at Heather Avenue Infant School and provides support and guidance to schools across the county and beyond on how to deliver first class phonics support to young people.

I'm proud of what we've achieved so far in very challenging times, and this is only a small part of our plans for the future.

From our CEO, Daniel Thrower

At the Wensum Trust we share our own, unique definition of success: Children are in school, participating and enjoying their learning and feeling safe; with a sense of belonging and with aspirations towards a future path. Our children are resilient, articulate and, by the time they leave us, they are learners for life.

I am proud that every day, across the Trust, our schools are working together to help each and every child fulfil this definition of success with a unique approach to education; enabling children to develop academically as well as equipping them with the skills to strengthen their emotional wellbeing and social inclusion.

By prioritising mental health and wellbeing we are ensuring children are better equipped to focus on learning and achieving their full potential. Our strong partnerships with high profile organisations across Norfolk inspire our children to broaden their career path and learn valuable life skills - and together with high expectations for every child working through our seamless curriculum provision, we provide a mapped out educational journey.

I am excited about the future of the Wensum Trust and the opportunities we can bring to many more children, families and communities across Norfolk.



Our Strategic Framework



Our strategic framework has been designed to guarantee that the needs of the whole child are met and that our schools offer the best possible support throughout their learning journey.

Positive mental health & wellbeing

This is at the foundation of all that we do. Prioritising mental health and wellbeing lays the foundations for future relationships, better health, positive engagement and successful learning. Put simply, it enables a child to learn and achieve.

Learning and achievement

We maintain high expectations of our children and we aim for every child to make excellent progress at every stage. School curriculums are broad, balanced, enhanced and enriched through our unique strategic partnerships.

Career and life skills

By giving each child a clear career trajectory, supported by our strategic partners, we lift their aspirations, give them a sense of belonging and help them to become learners for life. They gain a better understanding of the purpose of education and the opportunity to expand vital life skills. This will develop high achieving individuals who are able to better support and contribute to the mental health and wellbeing of their own children or other young people in the future.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

We are committed to ensuring that all children in our schools, regardless of their academic abilities, can engage with their learning more effectively and achieve their potential in school and beyond.

This is why we put mental health and wellbeing at the foundation of all we do. If a child feels supported emotionally, they will be ready to learn and maintain positive relationships with other children, their families and our staff.

Taking a relational approach with Emotion Coaching

At the Wensum Trust we are focused on developing the whole child, both academically and emotionally.

We understand that everyone responds to emotions and manages them in different ways and we are dedicated to helping children understand, and effectively manage, the emotions they feel.

The Wensum Trust was the first in Norfolk to introduce Emotion Coaching in all our schools. Every member of our staff is trained to understand the reasons behind behaviour and how to guide children to calmly use more effective responses.

Emotion Coaching also enables staff to problem-solve and proactively support children to meet expectations.

“Our approach to education focuses on building a positive relationship with every child and their family so that everyone feels safe, secure and supported.”



“The language of Emotion Coaching has also helped developed pupils’ vocabulary relating to emotions - we no longer just have the words ‘happy’ and ‘sad’ when talking about emotions, but vocabulary such as disappointed, elated, blue, melancholy, frustrated is being used in context.”

Beccy Dewing,
Garrick Green Infant School

“Emotion Coaching gives staff and students a way to recognise and understand their feelings. It helps students to self-regulate, which in turn helps them to improve their mental health and reach their learning goals.”

Ina Coubrough,
Hellesdon High School

Learning and Achieving

The Wensum Trust provides a unique learning journey from nursery school to sixth form. Working as one Trust, our schools are providing children with a mapped out educational pathway and seamless curriculum provision, which will nurture and develop aspirations for their future.

Because we take a relational approach to education, we understand the needs and ambitions of all our children and as a result they are able to achieve regardless of their academic abilities.



We maintain high expectations of every child, helping them to understand the value of education from a young age, which will motivate them to learn for their own personal and professional gain.

The Wensum Trust is continually investing in teaching and learning across all our schools. Our latest significant investments have included new classroom blocks at both Hellesdon High School and Alderman Peel High School to add extra and improved learning spaces. Hellesdon Sixth Form has been modernised to significantly improve the learning and social space for students.

Ofsted inspections in four of our schools in 2021-22 have validated the approach the Trust is taking to understanding children and providing an environment for them to thrive.

What Ofsted Inspectors had to say about our schools...

“Pupils benefit from the high ambition leaders have for their education.”
Acle Academy, Feb 2022

“The school welcomes pupils of all abilities and enables them to achieve well.”
Alderman Peel High School, Apr 2022

“Relationships between pupils and staff are strong. Pupils show a good understanding of their own well-being and emotional needs. They are taught to empathise with how other pupils might be feeling.”
Burnham Market Primary School, Sep 2021

“Leaders and teachers help children to behave well. They promote pupils’ self-control and teach pupils social and emotional skills.”
Wells-next-the-Sea Primary School, Jan 2022

Careers and Life Skills

Since the formation of the Trust we have been building a team of strategic partners to enrich and broaden our curriculum offer.

With the support of our partner agencies, we are able to give our students truly unique opportunities to discover and explore different careers and job roles, as well as learn about them in a practical and realistic environment.

The time our students spend with our partners also enables them to develop and enhance vital soft skills and life skills, which will not only be required by employers, but will ensure our children are equipped for the wider world.



Facilities



Here at The Wensum Trust we want our sites to be more than just schools. We want them to be places the local community can use to have fun, meet new people and do new things. This is why we open our sites up for hire - to support and host a wide variety of groups and activities that people can enjoy.

We have dedicated staff to ensure that all activities on our school sites are fully supported. This ranges from the room set up and cleaning, to PR support and a dedicated

point of contact at the Trust. Due to our locations, we find our local communities really enjoy having access to different activities on our school sites and as a Trust we want our school sites to become a thriving community hub, full of positive activity out of school hours.

Groups that use our schools are often very successful and are nearly all long term hirers of our facilities. We like to build a partnership with all of our hirers, and we often find we can support each other in many ways.

“We are delighted to have access to the great facilities at the Wensum Trust. As a grassroots football club, they have been able to support us in providing good quality facilities at each of the formats we need; 5, 7, 9 & 11 a side, at prices that mean we can make football accessible for the children of our community.”

Dan Henry, Costessy Youth

Our Hub Model

To ensure we are able to provide that seamless curriculum and transition throughout a child's educational journey, the Wensum Trust has organised its schools into hub areas. We currently have:

The City Hub

- Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School
- Firside Junior School
- Garrick Green Infant School
- Heather Avenue Infant School
- Hellesdon High School
- Hellesdon Sixth Form
- Kinsale Junior School
- Lodge Lane Infant School

The Coastal Hub

- Alderman Peel High School
- Burnham Market Primary School
- Wells-next-the-Sea Nursery and Primary School

The Rural Hub

- Acle Academy

Our staff across the schools in each hub work together to ensure children are resilient, articulate and fully equipped to be learners for life by the end of their journey with us.

It is the Trust's ambition to expand these hubs in the future, and create new ones, to provide more opportunities for children, families and communities in Norfolk.

“Being part of the Wensum Trust hub model has significant advantages for our students. As part of the Coastal Hub, we work to share information regarding curriculum, levels of achievement and safeguarding information about our families. This helps to provide a joined-up approach to ensure that the mental health and wellbeing; learning and achievement; careers and life skills of the whole child are catered for from the start of their educational experience until the day they leave. The school community does not stop at the school gates, it reaches into the local communities where our children live and across the whole Coastal Hub.”

Matt Hardman, Principal,
Alderman Peel High School



Our Schools

Primary Phase



Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School

Arden Grove is a learning for all school which takes account of each child and their family's unique starting points, experiences and aspirations to create their curriculum.

The school teaches children to recognise their emotions, values, strengths and limitations and confidently support the development of their self-regulation skills so they are ready to learn. Meanwhile, through an ambitious, child led curriculum, the school is empowering children to fulfil its values to be self believing, empathetic, aspirational, respectful, curious and healthy.

wensumtrust.org.uk/ardengrove



Burnham Market Primary School

Burnham Market is a secure, happy, healthy and stimulating environment which encourages curiosity and the desire to learn.

The school strives for children to become confident and fulfilled as individuals and members of society. It strongly believes every child has the opportunity to achieve their potential in every aspect of learning, whilst enjoying school life to the full. Its text rich, enquiry based curriculum provides memorable and meaningful learning experiences where children are encouraged to become confident, independent and resilient.

wensumtrust.org.uk/burnhammarket



Firside Junior School

Firside offers a stimulating environment for learning, where every child can thrive.

The school gives children a sense of purpose, encourages their confidence and regards its partnership with parents and carers as vital for each child's success. With support from home, the school allows children to make the most of the many opportunities that lie ahead. It aims to help every pupil realise their aspirations, and to acquire the attitudes, understanding and skills to become a successful learner for life.

wensumtrust.org.uk/firsidejunior

“We have never actively recruited our schools. The Trust has become a trust of choice for schools to join. This is because of our vision and values, the autonomy schools have, and the support schools get from the central team. This support enables leaders to focus on children's wellbeing, teaching and learning.”

Daniel Thrower, Wensum Trust CEO



Garrick Green Infant School

Garrick Green prides itself on high standards, a warm atmosphere, community spirit and on its pupils' highly positive and enthusiastic approach to learning and achieving their potential.

The school treats all children as individuals, recognising they all start school with differing strengths, attitudes and experiences. Learning and progressing at different rates and in different ways, each child is empowered to develop in their own way, in a place where they can learn to be happy and are happy to learn.

wensumtrust.org.uk/garrickgreen



Heather Avenue Infant School

The staff at Heather Avenue enjoy getting to know every child, and their family, so they can understand individual needs and ensure a positive learning experience for all.

The whole school community delivers an exceptional learning experience, using wonderful stories and themes to stimulate engagement, thought and learning. Children achieve incredibly well because of its outstanding curriculum. It prioritises the needs of children by taking a holistic approach to support positive emotional health and wellbeing as well as academic progress.

wensumtrust.org.uk/heatheravenue



Kinsale Junior School

Kinsale Junior School promotes a culture of 'Learning and Achievement for All' within a caring and supportive environment. Its intention is for everyone learning and working in the school to thrive to fulfil their potential, experience success and celebrate their achievements.

Its pupils become well-rounded, socially successful individuals who recognise the relevance and value of lifelong learning. The school encourages them to become highly motivated, confident, independent learners and has a simple motto: 'Encouragement works best and success breeds success'.

wensumtrust.org.uk/kinsalejunior

Our Schools

Primary Phase



Lodge Lane Infant School

Lodge Lane's approach to learning, which is based on Imaginative Inquiry, offers a creative and dynamic curriculum with a wide range of opportunities for its pupils to experience and enjoy.

As a values-led school, the staff and teachers at Lodge Lane strive to provide memorable experiences to develop a positive attitude towards learning. The school's vision is for all children to become successful learners and to develop the skills and attitudes needed to make a positive contribution to their community.

wensumtrust.org.uk/lodgelane



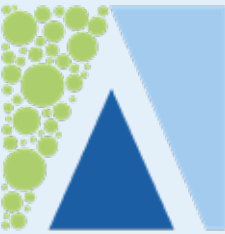
Wells-next-the-Sea Primary and Nursery School

Wells-next-the-Sea Primary and Nursery provides a varied and stimulating range of experiences to develop children's knowledge, practical and thinking skills, and an understanding of how they can be independent learners.

The school encourages its children to take ownership and develop a connection with their own rural and coastal environment, its history and its creative community. The school actively promotes links with the local and wider community to enhance and enliven pupils' learning, and uses outside visits to enrich the curriculum.

wensumtrust.org.uk/wells-next-the-sea

Secondary Phase and Further Education



Acle Academy

Acle Academy strives to create well-rounded, responsible individuals who seize opportunities, discover their passions and love to learn throughout life. Acle Academy has a strong academic reputation and is driven by a strong moral imperative that rests on social equity. It believes that every child has the right to a high quality education, regardless of background, and that it is their duty as educationalists to ensure that students are equipped with the knowledge, skills and self-assurance to fulfil their aspirations.

wensumtrust.org.uk/acleacademy



Alderman Peel High School

Alderman Peel is a consistently high performing, caring, supportive and inclusive school. It sits at the very heart of the community, not only providing wonderful learning experiences for its students but also a fantastic working environment for all its staff. The school buildings also provide wonderful learning and leisure opportunities for the wider community. Alderman Peel prides itself on the range of activities and support it provides for all its students. The school values are Ambition, Pride, Happiness and Success.

wensumtrust.org.uk/aldermanpeel



Hellesdon High School

Hellesdon High School provides a great variety of academic, social and cultural opportunities designed to help young people to enjoy, achieve and succeed in all aspects of their life. Learning is at the heart of all it does. Through high quality teaching, it ensures every student's talents and abilities are catered for, allowing them to not just excel academically but also to develop skills which allow them to become more independent in their learning, in preparation for life beyond school.

wensumtrust.org.uk/hellesdonhigh



Hellesdon Sixth Form

Whilst Hellesdon Sixth Form is a natural progression for Hellesdon High students, it's also chosen by many other Year 11 students in the local area. It offers a fantastic selection of post-16 courses, alongside outstanding facilities and extra-curricular activities, while still being small enough to give students a welcoming and supportive environment in which to study.

Students benefit from being taught in small groups and from one-to-one support, advice and guidance from both personal tutors and a dedicated pastoral worker.

wensumtrust.org.uk/sixthform

Wensum English Hub

The Wensum English Hub is located at Heather Avenue Infant School, part of The Wensum Trust, and is one of 34 English Hubs nationwide. Funded by the Department for Education, the Hub supports other schools in Norfolk and Suffolk to achieve excellence in teaching, reading and early language development.

The DfE launched the Hubs at primary schools across England to support schools to improve the teaching of early language and reading. Each Hub school has been chosen for its track record in excellent language, literacy and reading teaching.

The Wensum English Hub aims to offer free funding and support in achieving excellent teaching through:

- Developing early language and closing the word gap
- Developing early reading through systematic synthetic phonics
- Promoting a love of reading

The Hub also aims to support eligible partnership schools to deliver excellent phonics and reading lessons to EYFS and KS1.

“It’s been a delight to work with Wensum English Hub. They support a wide range of schools through a variety of options and quality training opportunities. It’s been my pleasure to work with such a professional and friendly team, dedicated to putting children first.”

Emma Spires, Phonics and Early Reading Expert

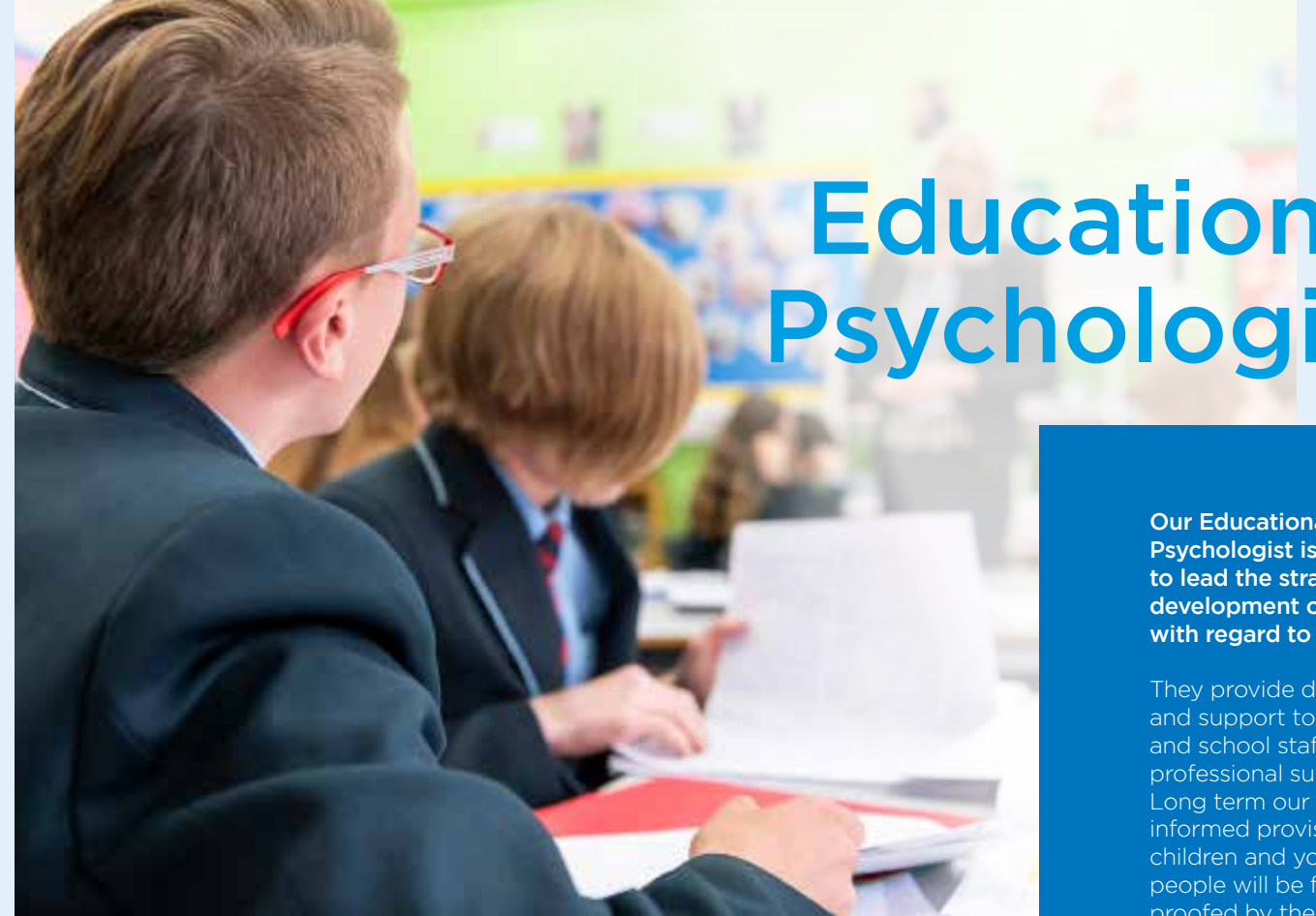


“Working with the English Hub has definitely been a way forward for us. The funding has been invaluable and it’s allowed us to buy the resources we need. We now have a structured phonics programme across our school, consistency across our teaching, and we are seeing positive improvements in the children’s reading and writing.”

Danielle Grant, reading lead at Edward Worlledge Ormiston Academy, Great Yarmouth.

wensumtrust.org.uk/wensumenglishhub

Educational Psychologist



Our Educational Psychologist is employed to lead the strategic development of the Trust with regard to SEND.

They provide direction and support to SENCos and school staff offering professional supervision. Long term our trauma informed provision for children and young people will be future proofed by their direction. We are aspirational that we will employ further professionals such as a Speech and Language Therapist and an Occupational Therapist. Their impact is significant with schools feeling supported and excited about the plans we have for SEND provision.

Systemic and Strategic Lead for Attachment and Trauma

Our Lead for Attachment and Trauma is instrumental in ensuring all of our schools drive forward SEND provision that is trauma informed, with Emotion Coaching paving the way to a relational approach. We know the biggest challenge all of our schools face is children with Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

Our lead supports schools to translate the theory of a trauma informed practice into practical ways forward in the classroom. They also run the highly respected SEMH SRB at Arden Grove Infant School. Their impact is significant and, along with the Educational Psychologist, such is the expertise we have, we aspire to develop both a training and research arm to the Wensum Trust.

Specialist Education

The PLACE at Arden Grove is one of Norfolk's Specialist Resource Bases; an additionally funded, short term provision for children aged 5-7 years, within the grounds of Arden Grove Infant and Nursery School.

At The PLACE at Arden we practise playful learning with acceptance, curiosity and empathy. We understand that every child and therefore, every developing brain is different! Children learn through the many different experiences they have, alongside the warm and positive relationships they build with their parents or carers, their families and their teaching teams. All these experiences help little brains grow, so that children are able to get along with others and become curious, playful and enthusiastic learners.



“We look forward to welcoming more children and developing and expanding the provision further over the coming months.”

Over time, children develop something we call self-regulation. This means they are able to manage their own emotions, responses and actions. They are able to listen well and begin to feel confident to try new experiences and learning.

Every child has their own interests, strengths, characteristics, differences and needs. For many different reasons, some children may need a longer length of time to develop early self-regulation skills. Perhaps they may find the expectations and interactions of the busy classroom environment overwhelming and become quickly disengaged from their learning. Their rising stress levels bring big emotions with confusing behaviours and their self-esteem and friendships begin to suffer. Children are often then referred to as having social and emotional mental health difficulties (SEMH). At The PLACE at Arden however, we look at this differently.

We have two classrooms each for up to eight children, with high staffing ratios and access to dedicated support. Initially, we help children know they are safe within their new environment and we help them build trust in our adults and other children. As children begin to feel calmer we work with the child, their family and their home school to provide a bespoke, engaging curriculum, alongside a continuous web of therapeutic approaches.

We understand that some children may need more support to manage big emotions and some children may have gaps in their social and academic learning. Many of our children are also neurodivergent - they feel, think and learn in different ways and they therefore need us to be understanding and accepting of their needs. They need us to believe in them, to help them re-engage in learning and to provide strategies to help them become successful in their home school, or wherever the next steps of their educational journey will be.

At The PLACE at Arden we aim to understand and celebrate every child; to support them to feel safe, know how to understand emotions, maintain relationships and become happy, confident learners.

“The Place at Arden offers a period of stabilisation and observation before staff work closely with families and home schools alongside our family learning coordinator and other dedicated professionals.

We provide a web of therapeutic support bespoke to each child, which unblocks barriers to learning and develops self-regulation skills alongside educational support. Some of our children are now beginning their extended transition, returning to their home schools for one or two days each week with ongoing support from The Place staff and the extended team.”

Anne Oakley, The Place at Arden Lead

Our Aims

- To enable children to return to mainstream education, better able to emotionally self-regulate and with improved emotional wellbeing.
- To work in partnership with home schools, helping them to better understand how to support children with complex Social, Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs and to be equipped to enable successful transitions for children coming back to mainstream provision.
- To have a clear and accessible pathway for accessing support for children within mainstream schools.
- To provide families of children with SEMH needs with access to appropriate support and strategies and to understand how best to support their children.
- For families, home schools and SEMH bases to work collaboratively with children to enable them to flourish and make progress within a mainstream school provision.



New SRBS



We are working with Norfolk County Council to open Specialist Resource Bases at Acle Academy and Alderman Peel High School.

These will provide additional support for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The SRBs will be a new purpose built space creating an enabling environment for learners in bespoke accommodation. We aim to open both SRBs in 2024-25 and will employ experienced staff with expertise in supporting children with ASD.

However, the experience of the staff will go beyond the SRBs, as their knowledge will be shared across all of our schools to provide training opportunities for staff. This will further enhance the support we provide to children with ASD across the Trust to reach their full potential.

Our Partnerships

The Wensum Trust has established unique partnerships with a number of organisations to offer experiences that allow children to explore their interests and talent from an early age.

By providing each child with a clear career trajectory, we lift their aspirations and give them a sense of belonging. Children in the Wensum Trust gain a better understanding of the purpose of education, engage better in school life and develop into high achieving individuals in their chosen field.

We work with partners to provide our staff with unique training and networking opportunities across a range of sectors. By working with industry leaders, staff are able to inspire children and broaden their opportunities.

Further partnerships to add greater dimensions to our careers and skills offer are being developed and will be announced in the near future.



LOVELL

Lovell

The Wensum Trust has teamed up with Lovell to help tackle the skills and jobs shortage in the construction industry and educate young people about the range of career opportunities in the sector. Lovell invited and included Morgan Sindall Construction as part of the partnership, helping to provide further opportunities for young people across the region.

The relationship began with the sponsorship of two students from Acle Academy, which will lead onto apprenticeships. A longer term commitment will provide students at all the Trust's secondary schools with opportunities on site, with the Trust embedding construction into the curriculum for 11 to 16 year olds.

“The Wensum Trust provides fantastic opportunities for students and we have enjoyed working closely with them on a range of events and having the students onsite to spark an interest in construction, provide practical skills and experience and showcase the range of roles and opportunities available in the sector.”

Simon Medler, Regional Managing Director of Lovell in East Anglia



North Walsham Rugby Football Club

Our partnership with North Walsham Rugby Football Club (NWRFC) originally aimed to expand extra-curricular opportunities for the children within our schools, but staff soon began to understand the wide range of skills and principles the sport offered to our students.

Both boys and girls get access to the club, but also to events run by England Rugby. It encourages students to get involved in the game but also helps them develop a whole range of skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership and resilience.

With the support of NWRFC, our schools hold regular events, rugby festivals and inter-school tournaments. At the end of each session, students are encouraged to summarise what they have learned from the game and what they can take back to the classroom environment.





Norwich City Community Sports Foundation

As the official education partner of Norwich City CSF, we are able to provide students with an opportunity to continue their education, combined with an outstanding football experience through unique programme offers for boys and girls.

The Football and Education Programme is a football-focussed offering that replicates the professional environment. Players have aspirations to further their on-pitch development whilst also building a dual career pathway at the same time. The Football Learning Programme has a wider football perspective with more focus on careers development for those considering a non-playing career in sport, such as coaching, media or science-based progressions.

For those who aspire to become a PE Teacher, students can gain a Level 3 PE Teacher qualification, which is achieved alongside three A-Levels, before being guaranteed a PE degree at the UEA.



“The partnership with the Wensum Trust allows us to support our students in the classroom as well as on the pitch, and open up a range of exit routes that many never thought would be a realistic opportunity. The expertise of the Trust’s education staff allows us to have a constant “critical friend” and providing checking, challenge and support ensures our academic provision remains at the top of its game.”

Stevie Bramble, Head of Curriculum, Norwich City CSF



Norwich Theatre

Working together to support creative learning across our schools’ curriculum, the partnership aims to help develop speech and language of children in the early years, use creative arts to stimulate learning in English language and literature and help children emotionally connect with themselves and others. The project at the heart of the partnership is Wise About Words which is funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Teacher Development Fund. Wise About Words focuses on embedding drama and storytelling into school culture, with an aim to improve children’s emotional well-being, as well as literacy, communication skills, focus and memory.



Royal Shakespeare Company

The Wensum Trust is the first in Norfolk to become a Lead Associate School in a programme which aims to give young people the most engaging and joyful experiences of Shakespeare and live theatre possible.

Working with Norwich Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Wensum Trust hosts training days which support the way Shakespeare is introduced and taught in the classroom for children of different ages.

It explores different drama exercises and activities which can be used to help make the subject more engaging and accessible to children.

“You will often find that for those students who find it difficult to connect to Shakespeare, the techniques taught in this programme provide a real switch moment in their learning, allowing them to enjoy it, boosting their confidence at the same time. It’s hoped Wensum Trust will lead the way for other schools within Norfolk to get involved in the programme.”

Hayley Murrow, Creative Learning Partnerships Manager at Norwich Theatre



Wells Sea Cadets

The partnership provides students and cadets with the opportunity to participate in a huge range of water based and land based activities such as sailing, kayaking, aviation, seamanship, navigation, water safety, residential boat trips, Duke of Edinburgh Award, first aid, and power boat training to name just a few.

Cadets gain qualifications such as the National Governing Body Awards for different sports and the Institute of Leadership and Management Young Leaders and Team Member Awards. Supporting all three strands of the Wensum Trust objectives, participating as a Sea Cadet provides the opportunity to learn and achieve qualifications, develop career opportunities and life skills, and supports mental health and wellbeing.



Zoological Society of East Anglia (ZSEA)

Our partnership with ZSEA opens up an opportunity to not only engage children who have an interest in the environment and working in animal welfare, but to also promote awareness of climate and environmental issues.

Kinsale Junior School in Norwich is at the heart of this partnership. Children at Kinsale get unique access to Banham Zoo, and learn about conservation, ecology and bring nature into the classroom. This goes far beyond the usual school visit to the zoo, extending into projects where students can reflect on their own experiences and resources offered by Zoo Keepers.

The partnership also supports staff and teachers with zoo experts - working scientists who are actively researching and working in the field - by helping plan science-based topics in greater depth.



What do children, families and communities say about our schools?

"Thank you to all the amazing team at BMPS and for all the help, care and support they give our whole family".

Burnham Market Primary School Parent



"I've never been to a school where all the staff say hello and greet you with a smile, even if they do not know you or your child. I have been extremely anxious due to the complexities of my daughter and I've found the whole process of starting school very emotional, but the support and care of the staff has exceeded all my expectations."

Heather Avenue Parent



"I had a spark of ambition when I came up to high school but the charismatic and kind staff have fuelled this and transformed it into a roaring fire that nothing can extinguish."

Alderman Peel Year 10 Student

"I feel very grateful for everything that everyone's doing to help support the children and I'm very excited to see how this journey goes for them."

Heather Avenue Parent



"Great teachers. Great school. Nothing is ever too much trouble. All the teachers welcome everyone with a smile, they are all so helpful, kind, caring and just so lovely."

Arden Grove Parent

"We will be leaving Arden Grove only with positive feedback, it was our pleasure to be at school all these years and Year 2 was exceptional!! We felt supported all the way through too. We can't thank you enough for the support from all teachers in school too, for their kindness, patience and very hard work in looking after our important little people."

Arden Grove Parent



"Every member of staff my daughter has come across during lessons, meltdowns and successes throughout her time at HHS has treated her with respect, care and kindness, listening to her and her needs as an individual and showing genuine care and concern for what she is going through at that time - helping her to believe that she can do this!"

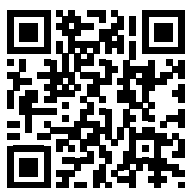
Hellesdon High School Parent

"As a teacher myself, I appreciate everything this school has done for my child. It is an incredible school, inclusive, and even though I do not work there, I'm forever recommending this school to all the parents I speak to. I wish all schools were like this."

Alderman Peel Parent

"I had a fab visit with R yesterday. It really sent me on my way with a smile on my face. I think the school has supported her fantastically - wish all places were like Garrick Green."

Teacher, Virtual School for Sensory Support



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