



## **Fernhill School**

### **Introductory statement**

The Greenshaw Learning Trust is planning to open its new secondary age specialist provision for pupils with autism in September 2027.

The school will create an environment for and employ staff who are specialised to work with children who have a diagnosis of autism and whose primary area of special educational need is autism.

The school will be a specialist provision and will build opportunities for Preparation for Adulthood throughout the curriculum. This will include opportunities for community inclusion alongside mainstream peers as well as opportunities to join peers in mainstream classes for subject-specific specialist teaching where appropriate.

### **Admissions to the School**

Fernhill School is an 11 - 19 special free school for pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan who have a diagnosis of autism and whose primary area of special educational need is autism. The school will provide 96 places for children of both sexes. Pupils attending Fernhill School will typically be working at the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum and able to engage in formal or semi-formal learning.

All pupils attending Fernhill School have an entitlement to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. Accordingly, Fernhill School is structured to provide those pupils with consistent, proactive support for executive functioning and communication with the intention that they will develop independence and self-regulation, which may include independent travel, independent access to learning, self-advocacy and independent community inclusion with peers.

All pupils attending Fernhill will learn within a small group setting of pupils working, as described above, at broadly pre key stage 2 standards (Key Stage 1 National Curriculum). Pupils will benefit from a smaller and more nurturing educational environment with class sizes of approximately 8 pupils. Pupils need to be able to benefit from a delivery model which includes small group work and access to subject-specific teaching in specialist teaching areas across the campus.

It is expected that pupils attending Fernhill School will, by the time they graduate from the school, be achieving accreditation within the range of entry level 2 and 3 and functional skills so that at the

point of school-leaving they are able to move on to further or higher education, supported internships and direct employment, including apprenticeships.

Pupils attending Fernhill School will typically require input from therapists in accordance with their EHCP, which is likely to include SALT and OT. Pupils are also likely to benefit from support for mental health and well-being via CAMHS.

Fernhill School is commissioned by London Borough of Sutton to provide the above provision for 96 pupils. For a child to be admitted, the school must be named by a local authority in the child's education health and care plan (EHCP).

Parents wishing their children to benefit from our provision should ask their local authority to name our school in their child's EHCP.

Decisions regarding the placement of children involve a number of stakeholders, such as the view of the child, the placing Local Authority, parent/carer preference and the views of the experts both within and outside the School.

For further information on our school, and the process for obtaining a place here contact:

Email: [info@greenshawlearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:info@greenshawlearningtrust.co.uk)

Telephone: 020 3988 0218

Greenshaw Learning Trust policies can be found here:

<https://www.greenshawlearningtrust.co.uk/trust-policies>