

Prospectus 2023 - 2024

Education at Ashcroft



Ashcroft

**TOGETHER
TRUST**

Welcome to Ashcroft

We believe that every child should have the chance to shape their future through learning.

Ashcroft offers the right balance of personalised learning and intensive support to help all our students break through barriers and reach their potential.

Every day our students build their self-esteem, learn new skills and move towards a happy and fulfilled future.

We hope this prospectus highlights the excellent opportunities Ashcroft's learning centres can offer your child or young person. We look forward to supporting them through their learning journey.



Why Ashcroft?

We're part of the Together Trust - a charity which delivers individual care, support and special education services to thousands of people every year. Our staff live and breathe the charity's values: we are passionate, supportive, positive and professional.

We support children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs at our three learning centres in Greater Manchester.

Many of our students have struggled to cope in education because of their barriers to learning. They may have faced long periods out of school or are at risk of exclusion.

At Ashcroft we promote learning and positive emotional development by improving self-esteem. Re-engaging our young people with learning is one of the most important things we do.

“My son's progression and attitude towards learning have really turned around. **The staff at Ashcroft are 10/10.** Thank you so much for the care and attentiveness you give to my son on a daily basis. I couldn't be happier.”





Tailored learning

A broad and balanced curriculum is personalised for each Ashcroft student. This is done through pre-admission meetings and continual assessment of need where we get to know the young person and, with each of our services, put together a package to meet their needs and aspirations.

This approach ensures our learners improve their skills, particularly where a student has gaps or difficulty with learning concepts.

Across our educational settings, we offer a wide breadth of subjects. Core skills are built into each subject, with an emphasis on learning through doing. Our team is committed to providing the best learning opportunities, including access to community resources and learning programmes that link classroom learning to life skills.

We aim to ensure our young people leave us with improved literacy, numeracy and knowledge, as well as the skills they need to pursue their chosen path.

Supporting our students

Behind behaviours that challenge is an underlying root cause. We listen to students, take the time to understand what's driving their behaviour, and come up with a positive action plan.

To do this we use a Positive Behavioural Support Model, which develops a student's skills to improve their quality of life and helps them gain new skills, by replacing behaviours of concern with ones that are functional or socially acceptable.

As well as our own very experienced staff working with students, we also have input from the Together Trust's specialists, such as speech and language therapists, clinical psychologists and occupational therapists.

Together, we help students take control of their learning and make a change for the better. We do this through special student groups, activities, direct support and by working with parents and families on topics such as:

- Meeting special educational needs
- Effective behaviour management
- Social and emotional support
- Play therapy
- E-safety



Ashcroft school has been there beside my son for 15 months. He is now a confident young man who has truly started to understand and, more importantly, like himself. What this school has given him cannot be underestimated. Nurture and child centred. I can't praise it highly enough.





Our college and schools

We have three learning centres in Greater Manchester which help to transform the educational and personal development of young people with social, emotional and mental health needs. Our pupils receive 1:1 support with their learning to ensure they meet their goals.



Our settings are:

Ashcroft School

Our main school in Stockport offers primary and secondary specialist education.

Ashcroft School House

Our smaller, sister school in Tameside is the base for our Access to Education Group: i.e., students experiencing difficulties in formal education or with more complex needs. The school is also a feeder for our main school, Ashcroft.

Ashcroft College

Our vocational specialist college in Tameside offers courses in a variety of BTEC qualifications to students who are or may become excluded from mainstream education.



Ashcroft School



Age range

8 to 18-years-old

Location

Cheadle, Stockport



Our students may have struggled to cope in other educational settings due to their complex social, emotional and mental health needs. We can offer specialist support and teaching to help them thrive. Our expertise includes ADHD, autism, school phobia, anxiety and depression, as well as supporting looked-after children.



Qualifications

All our students can pursue a range of qualifications including:

Unit Awards

Entry Level Certificate (Entry Level 1, 2, 3)

BTEC Firsts (Award, Certificate, Extended Certificate, Diploma)

BTEC Nationals

GCSE

A Level

ASDAN awards

We have a great track record when it comes to GCSEs. As our learners get older, age 14 onwards, we also prepare them for adulthood and greater independence.

“The smaller classes and staff ratio to pupils is amazing. The subjects and level of learning are tailored to meet individual needs. There is a high level of support for both parents and students, and emotional and behavioural issues are dealt with calmly and sympathetically. They also do sterling work with independence and encouraging young people to reflect on and manage emotional and behavioural issues.”



Outdoor Education Programme

We provide an Outdoor Education Programme as an alternative to traditional PE, with sessions personalised to students in the group. Outdoor learning extends students' horizons and builds practical problem-solving skills.

Our outdoor education includes:

Climbing
Kayaking
Bushcraft
Sailing
Orienteering

Students can enter the Duke of Edinburgh Award which develops skills such as leadership, perseverance, teamwork and communication.

SHINE

Our shine provision is in place to offer learners with complex social and emotional needs a safe space to grow and flourish.

The supportive environment with high staff to student ratio allows staff to form strong relationships with young people to help guide them through the many obstacles which education has, and many continue to present for these young people, whilst also teaching young people's ways to cope and navigate in the future.

Ashcroft School House



Age range

11 to 18-years-old

Location

Droylsden, Tameside



Our Access to Education Group, based at Ashcroft School House, is for students who find it very difficult to cope with the demands of formal education and who, often, have more complex needs.

Students who join the group may have high levels of school non-attendance, frequent changes of school and/or experienced bullying or school phobia. They may be at risk of exploitation, criminal activity and social exclusion.



Through the group, we offer a personalised programme and one-to-one support, so students can reconnect with learning and regain their self-confidence.

Core curriculum subjects are studied along with practical topics, such as keeping safe online, work and life skills. We base our curriculum on themes to support students' social development.

These include:

- Empathy and awareness
- Transition and new experience
- Aspirations and goal setting
- Developing confidence and self-worth
- Building and maintaining relationships
- Reacting and responding



We work hard to engage students and use different techniques to gain their trust and respect. Most students transition from the group to our main school, Ashcroft, where they can access subject specialist provision.

This school is the perfect education provision for my young person. Communication with home is strong. I am always updated on progress and informed of any decisions made.



Ashcroft College

Age range

16 to 18-years-old

Location

Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside



Ashcroft College offers a range of exciting vocational subjects whilst providing crucial specialist support.

In addition to their vocational courses, our students study other topics, including functional English and Maths in order to gain the literacy and numeracy skills required for working life.

Our students are assessed as they start college to decide which level of qualification they will be aiming towards and, also, so we can add in any additional support they may need to achieve their best while with us.

All learners receive careers guidance and continuous transition support in preparation for life after college.



Curriculum and qualifications

Our varied curriculum includes key vocational subjects leading to BTEC qualifications:

Hair and beauty

The course is designed around practical skills and tasks that place an emphasis on learners demonstrating what they can do rather than what they know in theory.

Sport

The course balances theoretical and practical lessons 50/50. Our students participate in many different sports, both team and individual e.g., boxing, football, etc.

Digital media

The course covers various aspects of digital media, including storyboarding, filmmaking, photography, lay-out design and computer-aided art and design.

Health and social care

Qualifications are designed to equip learners with the skills and knowledge needed to care for others in a broad range of health and social care settings.

Ashcroft College has been the making of my son! He has matured so much with the support of the staff there and is confident about his next steps post 16. His teacher has shown a great understanding of my son's needs and goes above and beyond to support him. All the staff there are fantastic and supportive.



Frequently asked questions

What is your school/college admissions procedure?

An admission typically involves:

A referral from the local authority.

A panel meeting to discuss whether we can ensure their needs are met effectively.

We would then offer the local authority a place, if suitable.

The local authority will decide whether to fund the placement.

A home visit from pastoral staff.

The transition plan and timetable will start, support integration to the school.

We will support you throughout the admissions and transitions process. For further information about admissions and the appeals process contact our admissions team.

How long is your school/college day?

Our day starts at 8.55am and finishes at 3.00pm. Registration for the morning closes at 9.30am and at 1.30pm in the afternoon.

Do you have a school/college uniform?

We do have a school uniform for Ashcroft School and School House, however, this is not compulsory but we expect students to arrive at school suitably dressed. We ask students to wear:

- Black trousers or skirt
- Plain white polo or shirt or blouse – no logos allowed
- Grey Ashcroft School hoodie - available from the school if your child prefers to wear the uniform
- A suitable sweatshirt or cardigan – no logos allowed

Please note pupils should not wear leggings or tight trousers to school. A suitable plain top is allowed if pupils prefer not to wear the uniform.

What do you offer for school/college meals?

Your child has the option of a school/college meal or packed lunch.

The different, daily meal options take account of our students' varying dietary requirements. If your child has a special diet, we are happy to support this and provide, as far as possible, appropriate meals and snacks.

What facilities do you have?

Our main campus at Ashcroft School gives our students the best possible learning environment, including small classroom bases and a large green play space outside. We have outdoor gym equipment and seating with plans for further development. We also have a fully equipped kitchen area for food technology, a science lab and ICT suite. The best way to see what we have to offer is to pay us a visit.

Can you administer a student's medication?

Yes, but only with the written permission of a parent/carer. Also, the medication needs to be in its original packaging. We record any administration of medication and keep it on your child's file.

How do you keep in touch with parents/carers?

Parents will hear from us in many different ways including:

Home-school books

Informal meetings, telephone contacts and group call

Email

Placement and annual reviews

Parent forums and parents' evening

Newsletters

How do you assess students?

When a student starts with us, we undertake baseline assessments. To do this we incorporate a range of measures, including information from parents and carers, along with information from their previous education. We then gauge, record and report student progress in several ways including:

Towards the achievement of individual targets

Against their starting point

Towards nationally recognised qualifications

Our students vary considerably in their abilities, and we seek to help everyone at Ashcroft achieve the highest level possible. Alongside celebrating educational success, we also recognise and celebrate personal achievements.

How to apply to Ashcroft

Applications from parents, carers and professionals

Get in touch to see if one of our Ashcroft learning centres is the right place for your child or young person.

We welcome direct enquiries, and always encourage you to visit our services, explore our learning environment and meet our friendly staff team.

Referrals from professionals

If you're a healthcare professional or a team looking to make a referral, get in touch with admissions lead Chris Gallagher.

We accept referrals from:

Local authority teams

Social workers

Residential care homes or fostering services

Virtual school teams

Get in touch with
the admissions lead,
Chris Gallagher at
Ashcroft School for
all learning centres

We'll work with you at every stage of a student's education until they're ready to move into mainstream education, further education, or a work placement.

Admissions Process

We want to make sure every student has the best chance at success. That includes making sure Ashcroft services are right for them. To help us make an informed decision, we'll need a few things from you:

A copy of the Statement of EHCP
The last EHCP review documents
Any other relevant documents e.g.,
educational psychologist's reports

If you have any questions at all, contact us now so we can support you through your application.

We're on hand to help things go smoothly.





Ashcroft School

No
parking



Get in touch with us

If you would like to find out more about us, visit our website:
togethertrust.org.uk/ashcroft

**Please note, all queries about admissions, for any of our
three sites, should be directed to:
admissions.ashcroft@togethertrust.org.uk**

To arrange a personal visit, ask specific questions or, if you're a professional looking to make a referral, please get in direct touch with the relevant learning centre.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Ashcroft School

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Ashcroft College

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Anthony Farnworth: Chair of the Governing Body

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