

Prospectus 2020

# Inscape House School



Inscape  
House  
School

TOGETHER  
TRUST

# Welcome to **Inscape** House School

I want every parent to feel confident that they're making the best choice for their child when they choose Inscape House School. Personally, I feel privileged to have worked here since 2015 and I'm very proud of the wonderful teachers, therapists and support staff that work tirelessly to provide the highest quality education, support and guidance for all our students.

I'm very aware of the challenges faced by parents with autistic children, the difficulties in finding the right school to support all their

**Sara Bayley**  
Head Teacher, Inscape House School

needs and the need for specialist knowledge, understanding and support. However, for many children, coming to Inscape House can be a genuine turning point in their young lives. It can be the first time that students and their families feel positive about the future.

If you'd like to learn more about the life changing work we do, please feel free to contact our admissions team to attend an open morning. Alternatively, you can visit the schools page on the Together Trust website.

## Our vision, our approach

At Inscape it's our vision to provide a learning environment that places our young people at the heart of everything we do, where they feel valued and can thrive. Our mission is to champion their rights, needs and ambitions.

We support young people to reach their full potential, by understanding that they have a distinct way of thinking and perceiving the world.

Inscape provides opportunities to promote independence and teach life-changing skills; we engage, we

support and we motivate to equip our unique young people to face life's challenges. Together we learn, grow and succeed. Together we conquer barriers and surpass expectations.

Inscape's highly specialist team combine their expertise with flexibility and understanding to give our students an equal chance in life, we believe there are no exceptions.

We look forward to supporting your family throughout your child's journey through their education.



# Why Inscape House?

Inscape House School is part of the Together Trust, a charity that provides care, special education and support to vulnerable children, young people and adults across the North West. Our campus, based in Cheadle, is an environment that enables learning, maximises independence and celebrates all of our students' achievements.

Accredited by the National Autistic Society, we provide holistic learning programmes shaped to fit each student and delivered by our skilled multidisciplinary staff team. We live and breathe the Together Trust's values. We are positive, professional, passionate and supportive.

We use an eclectic and flexible approach. We believe this is necessary to support the development of the young people who study with us. Our teaching reflects the individual needs of all our students.

Alongside championing our students' academic progress, we help them to understand their emotions and develop coping strategies.

Our approach helps our students achieve positive outcomes.

## The Together Trust

Inscape House School is part of the Together Trust. At the Together Trust, our vision is a society where people thrive because they are valued within their communities, yet the road ahead for millions of people lies tangled and difficult to climb.

But they're not alone.

For 150 years the Together Trust has been championing and caring for people with disabilities, autism and complex health needs. Additionally, we provide life-changing support for looked-after children and young people.

Today we're one of the North West's leading disability charities. We help children, young people, parents and carers, delivering individual care, support and education to thousands of people each year.

# Our teaching methods

We teach in small class groups of no more than eight students. Students are baselined upon arrival and their individual needs are reflected in our four learning pathways, which students are able to move between when they're ready:

- **Champions** - learning to learn
- **Explorers** - learning through sensory exploration
- **Adventurers** - learning to be independent learners
- **Pioneers** - Independent learners

Together, step by step, we support our students prepare for the future they want by helping them conquer barriers and surpass expectations.

Our bespoke curriculum allows us to offer not only a range of academic subjects, centred on the National Curriculum at Key Stages 4 and 5, but also a range of different qualifications and awards such as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme. We also teach Autism-Specific skills through the Autism Education Trust (AET) framework. These skills focus on communication, social and life skills as well as community participation and readiness for the world of work.

Each class group has a teacher and generally 4 Educational Assistants who work with students on a daily

basis. We also have specialist teachers for different areas of the curriculum.

## PSHE Curriculum

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education is a key subject at Inscape, through which our students develop the knowledge, skills and qualities they need to manage their lives successfully, both now and in the future. It helps our children and young people to stay safe and healthy, and prepares them to get the best out of life, relationships, work and future opportunities.

Our PSHE curriculum offers valuable learning opportunities for each key stage, across three core themes: **Health and Wellbeing**, **Relationships**, and **Living in the Wider World**.

Throughout a student's primary and secondary phases of education our PSHE curriculum offers a wide variety of learning opportunities and experiences, which reflect students increasing physical and social awareness and their growing independence. It focuses on key skills such as building and maintaining relationships, learning about personal responsibility and managing personal safety, including online safety and the increasing influence of peers and the media.





You can learn about our curriculum on our website: [togethertrust.org.uk/inscape-house-school/curriculum](https://togethertrust.org.uk/inscape-house-school/curriculum)

### **Relationship and sex education (RSE)**

Taught through the framework of PSHCE, students develop an understanding of their bodies so they can recognise the physical changes that take place when growing up. And, how to deal with the emotions that accompany these changes. As with other aspects of learning, we teach relationship and sex education at a level that is suitable to the individual student.

### **Added value**

To develop a truly personalised programme we take the time to discover the special interests of each of our students and we use that knowledge as a hook to help progress both their academic and emotional learning. Such activities have included:

- Owl therapy
- Falconry
- Animal therapy (Noah's Ark)
- Gardening and horticulture



### **Support for learning**

We use a three-tier model to deliver our support for learning. All students receive a universal level of therapeutic and educational support and are able to access higher levels of assistance when required. When needed we also use targeted interventions, which are based on an individual student's progress. It's common for students to move in and out of support tiers, depending on what's happening in their lives.

### **Increasing independence and participation**

All students participate in their learning and contribute to life at Inscape in a range of different ways. We encourage students to evaluate their learning and contribute to the annual progress review of their Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) in a way that is appropriate to their communication abilities.

Our school council encourages school-wide participation and gives students the opportunity to contribute to discussions on many school issues. The school council gives students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of self-advocacy and what it means to live in a democratic society.

### **Positive mental health and wellbeing at Inscape**

At Inscape we take a whole-school approach to managing mental health, reflecting the recommendations in government guidance. We have taken major steps to develop positive mental health and wellbeing for our students, contributing this work to the Department of Education as a case study of best practice.

Two full-time British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) registered counsellors deliver our play therapy counselling provision.

In addition our Health and Wellbeing curriculum focuses not only on physical wellbeing and sporting activities, usually thought of as physical education lessons, but also on students' mental wellbeing. This is done through the delivery of topics that include activities such as yoga and mindfulness.

### **Partnership with parents**

We believe passionately in working alongside our students and their families. In doing this we can develop strategies so they can contribute and be consulted on all aspects of their lives.

### **Working in partnership**

As a school we work with over 14 local authorities, providing consultancy, training and support where requested.

We have partnerships with local mainstream schools and we are able to access inclusion opportunities for our students where they are appropriate.

**“You are all ambitious and highly aspirational for the pupils in your care. The school is held in high regard by parents, pupils and other external agencies. As one parent told me, ‘My child needs a lot, but the school has given him more’.”**

**Ofsted report, April 2017**



## POST-16

We provide a curriculum that aims to prepare our students for adult life. Students follow a tailored three-year cycle of accredited learning and activities that support in the development of employability and life skills.

Our students can choose to study a range of academic, vocational and social subject areas.

Our learning programmes give our students:

- Functional understanding of numeracy, literacy and IT
- Meaningful work experience to prepare students for employment
- Travel training to improve independence and to broaden the students opportunities within the community and wider society
- Enrichment, health and wellbeing programmes to develop social and communication skills in real-life contexts

We offer a range of qualifications that Post-16 students can enter based on their ability and their own goals:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Art
- ICT

Across all these subjects areas, students can achieve a range of qualifications, including Pre-Entry and Entry-Level, Functional Skills, GCSE, A Level, Arts Award, Duke of York, ASDAN, EPQs, BTECs .

We also work in partnership with a number of colleges in the Greater Manchester area.

## Nurture Room

The Nurture room at Inscape House School is designed with a home like feel to be a bridge between school and home. It's a warm and friendly environment where students feel emotionally safe and secure and therefore develop their individual needs further.

It's a place where we give students the opportunity to grow in confidence and be engaged in a small group environment, allowing them to become more successful learners in their classrooms.



# Therapy at Inscape

Our experienced and highly qualified team offer a wide range of therapy programmes and interventions. This support is totally individualised and embedded into the school curriculum. All members of the therapy team work closely with the educational team, families, carers and external professionals.

The team includes:

## **Speech and language therapists (SaLT)**

The SaLT team supports students to maximize their speech, language, and communication ability to increase independence. The team promote a total communication approach, which values all forms of communication.

## **Occupational therapists**

The occupational therapy team support students' academic learning, behaviour and independence skills in an individualised way. Within our team, we have occupational therapists who are qualified and experts in sensory integration.

## **School counsellors**

Our school counsellor offers support and counselling to children and young people referred by the school who present with emotional and psychological issues. We offer timetabled support as well as reactive sessions based on student need.

## **Positive Behaviour Support Team**

The Together Trust and Inscape House School adopt a positive behavioural support (PBS) model. Positive behavioural support is a person-centred approach that focuses on developing skills to improve quality of life. The team aim to support students to gain new skills by replacing challenging behaviours with ones that are more functional or socially acceptable.

## **Play therapists**

Therapeutic play at Inscape House School is delivered through a combination of techniques including intensive interaction, floor therapy, creative workshops, lunchtime groups and daily drop-in sessions.

## **Animal therapies**

We understand that animals can support students if they are having a difficult time and that animals can give our students courage, confidence and companionship. We are lucky enough to have a school dog who is an essential member of our transitions team. Through a referrals process, where applicable, we are also able to offer Owl Therapy and Noah's A.R.T





# Events

Students can participate in a range of events at Inscape and through the Together Trust.

## Inscape prom

To celebrate the end of the school year we throw a prom for all our students to enjoy. With the support of local businesses, we transform the school hall into a soothing sensory environment with refreshments and a DJ.

## Together Trust music festival

Students showcase their musical talents at the Together Trust's annual music festival at The Lowry's Quay theatre. Joining special schools from across Greater Manchester, students can experience performing in a professional setting.



## Carol service

Young people from across the Together Trust's services perform at their annual carol service in Cheadle. All are welcome to join this thoroughly enjoyable event.

## Christmas fair

Staff, students, families and friends join together every Christmas for Inscape's Christmas Fair. With crafts, cards and refreshments made by the students this is a wonderful opportunity to support our students' enterprise activities.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is your admission procedure?

An admission typically involves:

- Your initial visit to the school
- A referral from the local authority
- An observation in your child's school or other familiar settings by a member of our staff team
- We would then offer the local authority a place if suitable
- The local authority will decide whether to fund the placement
- The transition plan will start, including home visits by our staff and introductory visits to the school

We will support you throughout the admissions and transition process. Further information about admissions and the appeals process can be found by attending an Open Morning or contacting our admissions team.

## How long is the school day?

Our day starts at 8.55am and finishes at 3.00pm. Registration for the morning closes at 9.30am and at 2pm in the afternoon.

## Do you have a uniform?

We recognise that some of our students have sensory issues when it comes to clothing so we offer a range of uniform items. Students in Post-16 are able to wear their own clothes but we recommend that they choose comfortable clothing and shoes.

## What do you offer for school meals?

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

Our nutritional school meals have won a Healthy Schools Award and we are part of the Healthy Schools initiative.

We offer different options each day, taking into account our students' varying dietary requirements.

We also provide daily snacks and, mindful of the individual likes and dislikes of our students, we offer a range of healthy options. Our snack programme helps:

- Develop social and communication skills
- Students learn about making choices
- Extend their food range and encourage students to have a healthy diet

We keep up-to-date with research on the dietary needs of children with autism to ensure that our menus are nutritious and relevant for our students. 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 campus gives our students the best possible learning environment.

We've got everything covered with sensory rooms, adventure playground, outdoor gym equipment and sensory playground.

Our green-fingered students can develop their horticulture skills in our gardens. Aspiring chefs can experiment in our fully equipped kitchen and onsite café and computer-savvy students can put their skills to the test in our ICT suite.

The best way to see what we have to offer is to pay us a visit. Contact us to arrange a tour.

## Can you administer my child's medication?

Yes, but only with written permission by a parent. We record any administration of medication and keep it on your child's file.

## How will you keep in touch with me?

Parents will hear from us in many different ways including:

- Through the Parent Partnership on social media
- Home-school books
- Informal meetings, telephone contacts and group call
- Email
- Placement and annual reviews
- Parent forums and parents evening
- Newsletters
- When your child starts at Inscape you'll receive a handbook giving you information about how to share information with us, and how we will get in touch with you.

## How do you assess students?

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

- Progress towards the achievement of individual targets
- Progress against their starting point
- Progress towards nationally recognised qualifications

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

## What's next?

Book on to one of our open mornings - we'd love for you to visit us.

We'll use this time to explain more about the school and the way we work. You can find details of our next open morning on the Together Trust's website or Facebook page.



## **Inscape House School**

Schools Hill

Cheadle

Cheshire

SK8 1JE

0161 283 4750

[inscape.admin@togethertrust.org.uk](mailto:inscape.admin@togethertrust.org.uk)

Sara Bayley, Headteacher

Giles Gaddum, Chair of the Governing Body



[togethertrust.org.uk/inscape-house-school](https://togethertrust.org.uk/inscape-house-school)

Registered charity number 209782