

Hurworth House School



Welcome to Hurworth House School

Welcome to Hurworth House School, located in the village of Hurworth near Darlington in County Durham. We deliver specialist educational, vocational, and therapeutic services for children and young people aged 5 to 19 years. Hurworth House School provides support to young people with a range of complex and often multi-faceted needs. These include autism, moderate or severe learning difficulties and disabilities, trauma and attachment disorders.

The young people at our school often have complex needs including social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs.



A nurturing and inclusive school

Hurworth House School transforms the lives of our students, raising aspirations and inspiring young people to learn. We are committed to recognising the academic and personal achievements of our pupils.

Our school is a welcoming, creative and inclusive environment where we celebrate individuality, coaching all aspects of our young people's characters so they can achieve their potential.

Hurworth House School has a 'family school' ethos, where students are encouraged to take on responsibilities and to care for others. We nurture each student's interests and aspirations, making learning meaningful, accessible and enjoyable.



Three modern and well-equipped school learning sites

Our school is housed in a beautiful period building, learning spaces are modern, well equipped with technology and specifically designed to be calming and comfortable for our students. All students have access to a range of on-site sporting facilities, including a large indoor sports hall, sports field, table tennis area and an outdoor gym.

Our primary site has a discrete entrance with an outdoor garden area. The primary setting accommodates a specialist food technology kitchen, an art room and a dedicated therapeutic playroom.

Our secondary site has a specialist science laboratory, a creative art and design technology room, a catering kitchen and a hairdressing salon. The area boasts a large garden area with seating.

Our HUB site has a small specialist unit with a dedicated independent living room and an interactive sensory room for students. We have a separate facility for post-16 provision.

Hurworth House School has purpose-built therapy suites and sensory rooms across all learning sites.

A commitment to safety and welfare

Hurworth House School is well-equipped to protect the vulnerable young people in our care. The school has a robust and effective safeguarding culture which means that the safety and welfare of our students are at the forefront of everything that we do.

We welcome visitors to Hurworth House School. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange a visit.

Claire Blackett
Head Teacher
Hurworth House School



Service summary

The range of services and facilities available at Hurworth House School include:

- A warm, welcoming and positive environment to bring about positive change
- A school coaching culture that promotes an ethos of high expectation, respect and equality
- Effective therapeutic input that develops emotional resilience and wellbeing
- An individualised curriculum that develops skills in creative problem solving and independence
- A commitment to developing our young people's character, celebrating success in all its forms
- Opportunities to experience learning in a range of contexts
- Maximising individual potential in line with aspirations



"I can see a future of my child going to college now."

Parent of a student at Hurworth House School

"He goes to school and comes home happy."

Parent of a student at Hurworth House School

"He now has friends and has a social life."

Parent of a student at Hurworth House School

Achieving positive outcomes

In the last academic year, **100%** of our leavers have continued their education at college, begun training or started an apprenticeship.

"I feel the school staff are very understanding with my child's needs and have helped build my confidence back up from previous school failures. The communication is brilliant and everyone is lovely."

Parent of a student at Hurworth House School



Education services

Hurworth House School unlocks the potential of young people with complex needs, supporting them to achieve their aspirations and look to the future with confidence and optimism. Our school provides the tailored education and specialist support our students need to re-engage with learning. Highly experienced staff prepare students for independent and fulfilling lives, where they contribute positively to society as active citizens.

A welcoming and nurturing community

Many of our students have had difficult experiences at mainstream schools and long periods out of education. When they arrive at Hurworth House School, they are often lacking in confidence, disengaged from learning and anxious about a return to school.

Every child is carefully transitioned into our school, receiving the care and support they need to settle in, and feel secure and comfortable with us. As we get to know each child, we undertake a thorough assessment of their needs, strengths and learning starting points, to produce a tailored plan of education, therapeutic care and support. Our dedicated staff team build strong and trusting relationships with young people that quickly make them feel safe and valued.

The young people become part of a supportive and inclusive community, where their successes are celebrated at school. We support students to appreciate their abilities and strengths, and encourage these to develop during their time at Hurworth House School.

As our students settle into school life, they learn to understand their emotions, to become more resilient, and to communicate and interact well with others. The young people are equipped with the tools and strategies to address the difficulties they face, and to achieve greater emotional stability and wellbeing.

Personalised learning in small classes

Our highly personalised approach to learning is facilitated by small class sizes, which enable students to make rapid and sustained progress. The school has high staff to student ratios and provides one-to-one support where this is needed.

The small class sizes help us to address the heightened anxiety and school phobia that many of our children and young people experience. This is countered with empathy, understanding and structure.



A broad and balanced curriculum

Our broad and balanced curriculum is designed to encourage young people to become independent learners and to prepare them for their future. The school has carefully selected curriculum pathways ranging from pre-entry level courses through to GCSEs and A-levels. Every child and young person has a bespoke learning package to meet their individual needs, which takes into account their specific starting points.

The school has a clear identity and culture of expectation communicated through our 'Hurworth Way' ethos. The Hurworth Way is dedicated to developing the Three C's – Character, Creativity and Coaching. It is essential that the curriculum is organised in such a way that it provides students with the opportunity to learn the skills to build good character, expected behaviours and to be successful in their learning. Learning is designed to be engaging, creative and academically challenging at Hurworth House School and our curriculum is driven by our strong sense of moral purpose.

Our young people are encouraged to follow a pathway that best suits their aspirations and we ensure these are not constrained by the demands of accountability measures. We recognise and celebrate individuality, developing all aspects of our young people's characters in order to fulfil their ambitions.



Supporting personal growth

We guide our young people to develop emotionally and socially, with therapy integrated into their daily learning. They receive a bespoke package of therapeutic support and have access to services, including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and counselling.

With our specialist support, young people address and overcome their barriers to reach a place where they are ready to learn. Our aim is for the students to achieve a greater degree of emotional stability that enables them to thrive at our school.

Character building is a focus at Hurworth House School and we provide enriching life experiences that encourage personal growth. These include cultural trips such as theatre visits, work experiences in the local community and participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

We seek to broaden horizons, increase confidence and self-esteem, whilst developing important life skills such as teamwork and communication.



Preparation for a brighter future

Developing the skills for independent living is an integral part of our school's curriculum. From the very start of their time with us, children learn in the community, building confidence and social skills in a safe and supported way. The students learn how to make informed choices about healthy lifestyles and relationships, including building age-appropriate knowledge of abuse and exploitation. Our school is an important part of the local area and students take part in a range of events and activities, including fundraising for charities and voluntary activities.

We meticulously prepare young people for life after school, whether that involves further learning or employment. Every child receives independent careers advice and guidance, and there are opportunities for tailored and meaningful work experiences, as well as guest speakers and taster sessions at further education colleges and training providers. We work in partnership with employers to address and overcome barriers to learners entering the world of work. We aim to help each young person to successfully integrate into the community and to develop the skills that will enable them to live independently.

Building partnerships with families

We recognise the importance of working in partnership with parents to support their child's progression in school. Our approach is to ensure regular communication, with progress updates and consultation on the next steps in their journeys with us. We share knowledge and experience, aware that whilst we are the education specialists, each parent is the expert on their child. Our close links with parents and carers enable them to implement strategies to effectively support their child at home.

Part of one of the leading specialist education providers

We are proud to be part of Aspris Children's Services, one of the UK's leading specialist education providers. We form part of a network of schools and colleges sharing best practice and learning from each other's successes.

We benefit from a comprehensive and continually updated range of training, expert information and advice for educating and supporting students with autism, learning disabilities and SEMH needs.

Our school is supported by a central team including an Operations Director, Health and Safety Advisor and Quality Lead, ensuring a consistent and robust approach of the highest standards.

Therapeutic support

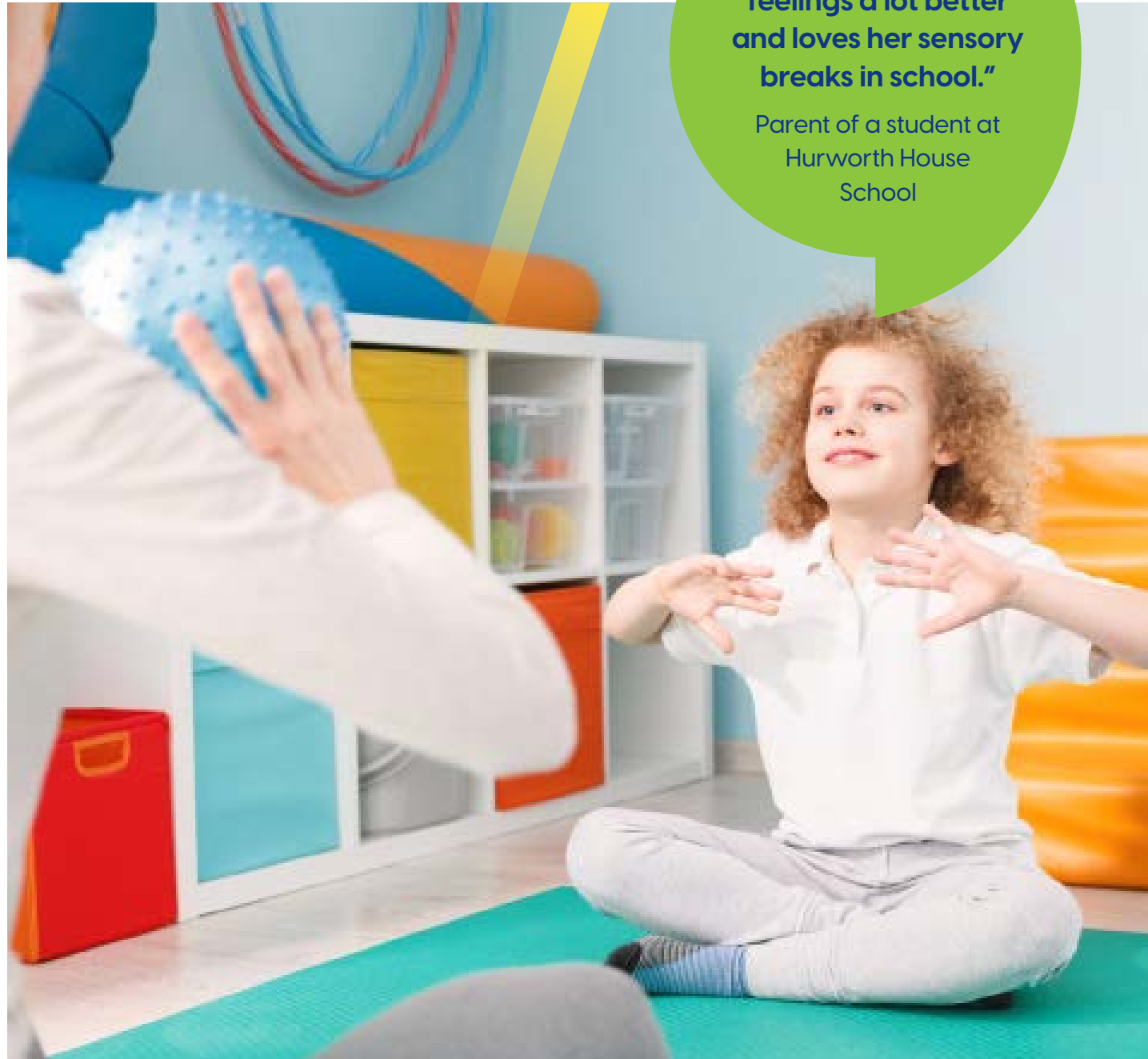
Therapy is at the centre of our approach at Hurworth House School and a crucial element of all that we deliver. It underpins students' education and development, and gives young people valuable tools and strategies that they can draw on for life.

The young people at our school often have complex, multi-faceted needs including social, emotional and mental health needs, trauma and attachment disorders. Our psychology and therapy team develop a strong understanding of each young person and their specific needs, putting together a bespoke plan of support and development.

The school offers a broad range of therapeutic services, including psychiatry, counselling, art therapy, music therapy and speech and language therapy.

"My child understands her feelings a lot better and loves her sensory breaks in school."

Parent of a student at Hurworth House School



A holistic therapeutic approach

We engage young people in a holistic therapy programme, that supports emotional and social development, as well as their academic progress. Psychology and therapy staff work closely with teaching staff to embed therapy into each student's daily learning. Their expertise and guidance means that the entire staff team understands each young person more, maximising the positive impact the school has on their learning and development.

All staff work therapeutically and holistically to support children and young people who suffer with trauma or mental health needs, and whose troubled behaviour acts as a barrier to learning.

Our highly experienced staff identify the issues that may be stopping a young person from learning, and then work with them to remove these barriers. There is a strong focus on meeting pupils' needs, providing consistency and helping them to achieve greater emotional stability. Staff build safe, positive professional relationships with young people, mentoring them to re-engage with learning, develop and progress.

The school broadens the horizons of our young people with opportunities to develop interests and aspirations. Our learning is designed to build social and emotional resilience, communication skills, self-esteem and confidence, which helps students to achieve at school and equips them for a positive future.



"My son had no therapy before he came to Hurworth House School."

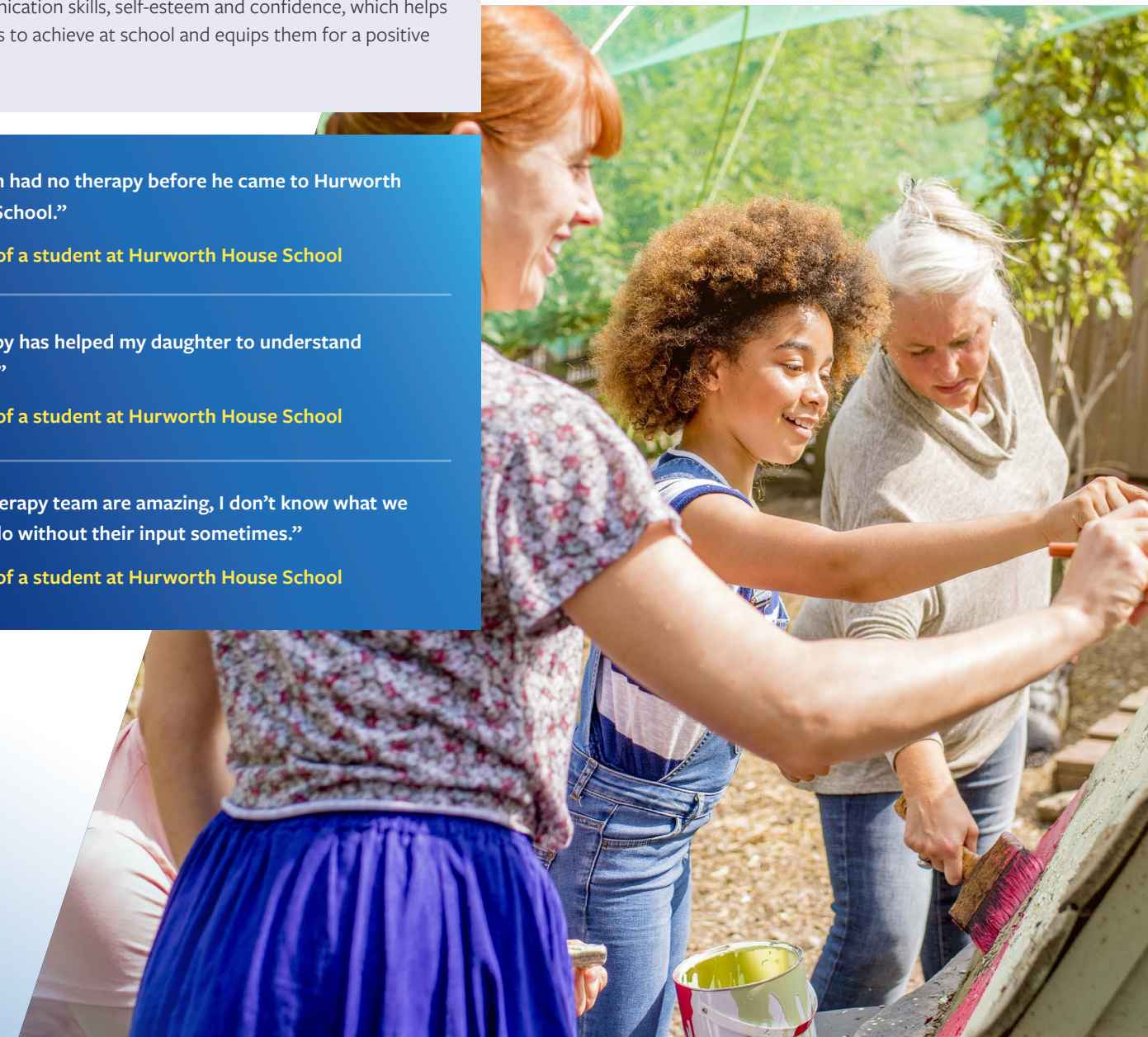
Parent of a student at Hurworth House School

"Therapy has helped my daughter to understand herself."

Parent of a student at Hurworth House School

"The therapy team are amazing, I don't know what we would do without their input sometimes."

Parent of a student at Hurworth House School



Case study

Jane* is 16 years old and has a complex variety of social, emotional and mental health needs. Since joining Hurworth House School, she aspires to become a hairdresser, but was extremely anxious about exploring this pathway.

Our approach

To support Jane in moving towards her goal, we focused on helping her to manage her anxiety, whilst building her knowledge and experience of hairdressing. Our approach included:

- Supported 1:1 teaching at our school's hair salon with a qualified Hairdresser, including hands on experience of cutting and styling hair
- Supported visits to hairdressing suppliers, to explore the materials and tools needed for the trade
- Independent advice and guidance from a Careers Advisor on how to access the sector
- Supported visits to hairdressing salons to speak to Hairdressers and Barbers about their roles

We then arranged a work experience placement at a local hairdressing salon. The placement was specially tailored to meet Jane's needs and followed a series of supported visits.



Achieving positive outcomes

After completing her placement, Jane has successfully secured a place on a hairdressing course at a college in Middlesbrough. She is very excited about this next stage of her learning journey.

Parent testimonials

“My child did not work in his last school. It’s amazing how much he is doing now.”

“My son is now able to express himself and his self-confidence has grown.”

“My child now feels safe at school.”

“My daughter is always happy and excited to come to school.”

“We are surprised how much our child has come on. He needs the structure from your school.”

“My son does not need me anymore. He can go off to trips without me.”

“My child is in the right place now. We have a good home/school relationship.”

“My son had a slow transition into Hurworth House School. We never thought he would ever come back to a school.”

“My daughter could not access any maths work before joining Hurworth House School.”

“My son went on a residential trip. That was massive for our family.”

“My daughter has friends now.”

“My son’s self-confidence has grown.”



*Name and images have been changed to maintain confidentiality.

Residential care services

Located within a rural North Yorkshire village and in close proximity to Hurworth House School, Fieldfare is a registered children's home that was rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted during their last inspection.

The home supports young people aged 7 to 18 years with complex needs. This includes emotional and behavioural difficulties (EBD), learning difficulties or a high functioning autistic spectrum disorder (ASD).

Supporting young people's needs

Fieldfare supports children and young people to develop personal controls, and behaviour patterns are encouraged and recognised. To assist this development, an environment has been established which gives both support and security, whilst allowing sufficient flexibility for the encouragement of individual development via specific individualised plans. The management techniques involve a range of strategies, including the use of positive reinforcement by creating an ethos and culture of supporting positive behaviour. This is aided by the home's incentive and rewards scheme, as well as the high staffing to young person ratio.

Fieldfare operates an environment which has a therapeutic and nurturing approach to working with the children and young people. Continuous and professional therapeutic input is available to the children and young people supported by Fieldfare. They will have access to a range of therapeutic interventions via the home's internal therapy team, including Psychologists, an Occupational Therapist, Counsellor, and Speech and Language Therapist. Regular focus meetings with the child and young person's Key Worker, therapy team and other consultants aid the co-ordinating of specific therapeutic plans. These programmes are constantly monitored, evaluated and updated to reflect continuous emotional development.

The therapy is measured using four evidence based outcome measures that are given to the young people each term. The questionnaires are Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ), Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI), Therapy Session Rating Scale (TSRS) and SEMH navigator, to monitor symptom reduction and effectiveness of interventions.



Service summary

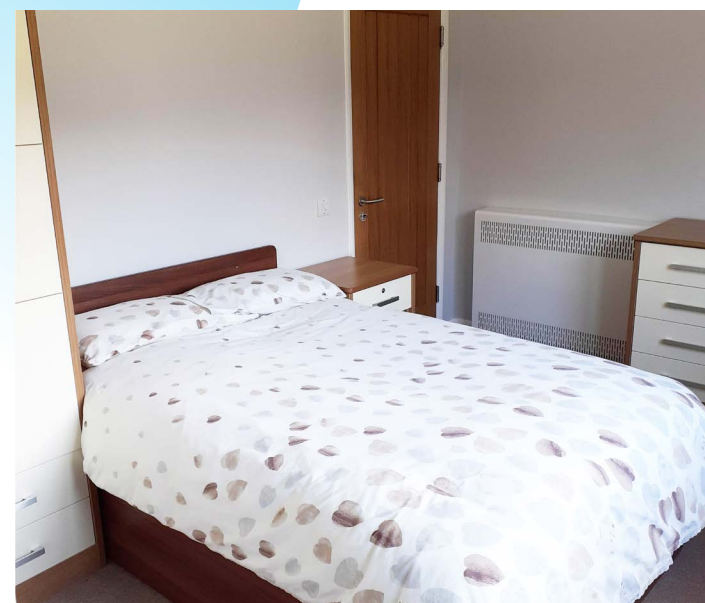
- A spacious 6-bedded modern detached house, situated within its own large grounds in a quiet and rural village
- Rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted
- Spacious internal facilities, including a family-style kitchen/dining area, sun room and games room
- All of the bedrooms have wet room en-suite facilities
- Bespoke packages that are inclusive of residential, education and therapy provisions
- A highly experienced and qualified staff team
- A wide variety of activities both on-site and community-based activities

The facilities available

Fieldfare is a large detached property set within its own large plot of land, and split over two floors. On the ground floor there are two bedrooms, so any mobility issues can be accommodated with ease. There is also a lounge, snug, dining room and kitchen, with a separate utility and laundry room.

All bedrooms are en-suite with shower facilities, and there is a family bathroom on the ground floor. On the second floor there are four bedrooms.

The home is surrounded by substantial gardens, which include a BBQ area, paddock and allotments. Fruit and vegetables are grown which are then used as fresh ingredients for making meals.



A range of activities

Recreational, cultural, enrichment and sporting activities provide one of the biggest opportunities to help build self-esteem, self-image and relationships. The aim is to help all of the children and young people to pursue their particular interests, to develop confidence and skills, and to participate in a wide range of enrichment experiences. Some of the activities provided by Fieldfare include:

- Bowling
- Cadets
- Cinema trips
- Cycling
- Ice skating
- Gym
- Pool and snooker
- Swimming
- Trampoline parks
- Youth clubs

"Living here at Fieldfare, it has been amazing. It's made me the person that I am today. If I hadn't been here, I don't know where I would have ended up."

Resident at Fieldfare

"I have such an amazing group of people around me and I feel here that I can accomplish anything."

Resident at Fieldfare

"I'm ready to move on thanks to Fieldfare working with me. I'm a different person now, I've grown up and I'm ready to face the world."

Resident at Fieldfare



Get in touch

For information on our specialist services at Hurworth House School, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Call: 01325 729 080

Email: placements@aspris.com

Website: www.aspriscs.co.uk

Hurworth House School,
Westfield Drive,
Hurworth,
Darlington,
County Durham,
DL2 2AD

**Senior leaders
ensure that pupils develop
outstanding personal development
through a range of very
successful strategies.**

Ofsted November 2018

**"I am very pleased
and proud to hear my son is
settling in well and doing some
positive and life changing
work in school. We are
incredibly grateful to you and
the staff for the support."**

Parent of a student at
Hurworth House
School