

Prospectus 2024 - 2025

Inscape House School



inscapeadmissions@togethertrust.org.uk

**Inscape
House
School**

TOGETHER
 **TRUST**
charity

Welcome to Inscape House School



We want every parent to feel confident that they're making the best choice for their child when they choose Inscape House School. We're very proud of the wonderful teachers, therapists and support staff that work tirelessly to provide the highest quality education, personal development opportunities, support, and guidance for all our students.

We appreciate the challenges faced by parents/carers with autistic children, the difficulties in finding the right school to support all

their needs and the necessity for specialist knowledge, understanding and support. For many children, coming to Inscape House can be a genuine turning point in their 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 school's page on the Together Trust website.



Sara Bayley
Head of Service



Hannah Stollar
Headteacher

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 conquer barriers and surpass expectations, 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 and personal development.



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.

Having achieved the Advanced Specialist Award, accredited by the National Autistic Society and the National Nurturing Schools Programme Award, 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 are 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 to prepare for the future they want by helping them to 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 a small team of 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 and Health Education (PSHE) 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**. We also support our students to have an understanding of their Autism as well as how this presents for others.

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.

PSHE Curriculum - continued

Embedded within our PSHE scheme sits the interoception curriculum. Many of our pupils have difficulties with self regulation and have underlying interoception challenges. Therapy and Education work together to teach an awareness to: notice body signals, connect bodily sensations and then determine what action to take to promote comfort in the body.

At Inscape House School, we recognise, support, and celebrate everyone's own identity. Evidence suggests that neurodivergent individuals, particularly those diagnosed with Autism, are significantly more likely to identify as LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, plus any other related identities) than those who are neurotypical. We

commit to improve the lives of all our young people, including those that are LGBT+, those from LGBT+ families, and LGBT+ staff members.

Proud Together is our student-led lunchtime group for members of the LGBT+ community and supportive allies. Proud Together meet weekly to discuss current affairs and organise events promoting inclusion and visibility, such as LGBT+ History Month or Pride/Diversity Week.

Inscape achieved the Rainbow Flag Award, which is a national quality assurance framework, encouraging a whole school approach to positive LGBT+ inclusion.

You can learn about our curriculum on our website:
togethertrust.org.uk/inscape-house-school/curriculum



PROUD TOGETHER

PROUDLY ACHIEVED



April 2024

Relationship and sex education (RSE)

Taught through the framework of PSHE, 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:

Animal Assisted Intervention

Outdoor Learning and Forest School

Animal therapy

Gardening and Horticulture

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We are now in year 4 of our partnership with Manchester United Football Club. We have a SEND officer who works with our students to improve both their physical and mental wellbeing.

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.



Foundation



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 democratically elected school council encourages school- wide participation and gives students the opportunity to contribute to discussions on many issues.

The school council gives students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of self-advocacy.

We have a wide range of lunch time clubs which are open to all students. Some students also run their own clubs for others.

“Pupils and students benefit from a wide range of opportunities outside of the academic curriculum. They serve staff and visitors with a smile in the on-site café. Leaders have established a successful student council. Student councillors sought their peers’ views on how lunchtime clubs could be improved. As a result, pupils and students enjoy taking part in a range of activities. These include a football club, train club and karaoke club.”

Ofsted report, June 2022

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.

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



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.

"I welcome the opportunity to meet with classroom staff and talk about my child."

"The difference they have made will last an eternity and I will thank them for an eternity."

"Through sheer kindness and compassion they have saved my daughter – I have nothing but gratitude for them."

"They have given me my son back."

Working in partnership

As a school we work with around 12 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.

POST-16

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

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 and 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

Employability

Music

Across all these subject areas, students can achieve a range of qualifications, including Entry Level, Functional Skills level 1 and 2, GCSE, A Level, Arts Award, Duke of Edinburgh and ASDAN awards.

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

We have a major focus on travel training, life skills and careers education and students have opportunities to access external and internal work placements to support the development of skills required for future employment.



Nurture Provision

The Nurture provision 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.

Welcome to
Inscape House School



“There was a genuine smile on the face of each and every single person I spoke with throughout the assessment. They all exuded a really happy feeling, which is a true testament to the wellbeing ethos and culture of Inscape House and an excellent example of what happens to all stakeholders when the nurturing approach is embedded so well.”

NNSP Award, January 2024

Inscape Vocational College

Alternative Post 16 Offer

A post-16 provision based in Ashton-under-Lyne for learners with ASC and SEMH needs.

Courses we offer:

BTEC Hair and Beauty

BTEC Health and Social Care

BTEC Digital Media

BTEC Sport



Additional information

Learners will access a 12–16hrs timetable with the opportunity to study functional English and Maths Entry level 3 to Level 2 (GCSE grade 4 equivalent).

A combination of PSHE and personal development will also be included within the curriculum to support learners with the development of life skills, social skills, and independence skills, to improve confidence and self-esteem.

Learners will be supported to access work placements and opportunities for employment.



Outreach and EOTAS offer

We know there is a growing need for Outreach and Education Other Than at School packages (EOTAS) of support for children and young people with Autism who are not yet able to access education in a school environment.

The Together Trust Clinical Services Team and Inscape House School are looking to set up multidisciplinary, personalised outreach packages, focusing on the use of nurture principles, trauma-informed and child-led approaches for children with Autism, to support them back into school.



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, or are in the process of becoming qualified in sensory integration.

School counsellor

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. PBS is a person-centred approach that focuses on developing skills to improve quality of life and gain new skills by replacing behaviours of concern with ones that are more functional or socially acceptable. The PBS Team work with staff, pupils, and families to provide the optimum environment and develop strategies to support the individual needs of all pupils.



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 have a fantastic Animal Intervention Programme that won the NASS Breaking Barriers Award in 2022 and the TT Education Positive Approaches to Inclusion Award in 2023. The AAI programme is implemented to develop our pupils social, emotional and mental wellbeing.



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 organise 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.

Inscape's Got Talent

Students showcase their outstanding and unusual talents in front of the judging panel!

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.

After observations, if we feel we could potentially meet need, we ask students to come and visit us in school to ensure the pupil feels they could see themselves in our school.

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 2.00pm 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.

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

We also provide daily snacks and we are 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?

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

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. We also have a beautiful art room and fully-kitted out science lab to support students' access to a full and wide ranging curriculum.

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 and school website.

When your child starts at Inscape you will 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 and EHCP outcomes.

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 would love for you to visit us.

We will 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.

Or email us at
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Inscape House School

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