



Sedgemoor Manor  
School

Introducing our specialist  
education services





# Welcome to Sedgemoor Manor School

At Sedgemoor Manor School, we deliver specialist educational, vocational, and therapeutic and care services for young people aged 7 to 19 years, with a diagnosis of autism and associated complex needs.

Our school is located in the peaceful and idyllic Somerset countryside, near the town of Highbridge. While we benefit from a beautiful rural location, the school has good transport links, being situated just five minutes' drive from the M5 motorway.

## Personalised learning that transforms lives

Sedgemoor Manor School transforms the lives of young people by empowering them to break negative cycles and achieve their potential. With our specialist support, students build the confidence, resilience and independence skills to pursue their passions and aspirations, unlocking a range of exciting opportunities for their future. We are proud that young people leaving our school all move on to further learning or employment.

Our young people are at the heart of all that we do and we know that no two students with autism are the same: each young person has their own unique needs, strengths, preferences and ambitions. Students thrive at Sedgemoor Manor School because we are committed to delivering education and support that is carefully and skilfully tailored to them as an individual.



## Trusting and positive relationships

Ofsted has recognised the exceptional working relationships our staff build with students, which encourage them to love learning again. These positive connections make young people feel secure, valued and confident to be themselves at school, often for the first time. They learn in a warm and welcoming community, where they are listened to and understood.

As they undertake their learning journey with our school, we work in partnership with each young person, their families and the professionals that support them.



## An idyllic location for learning

Sedgemoor Manor School is a converted manor house in one of the most picturesque areas of the country. Our extensive grounds provide opportunities for rewarding life experiences that broaden our students' horizons, including caring for animals, a forest school, gardening and horticulture.

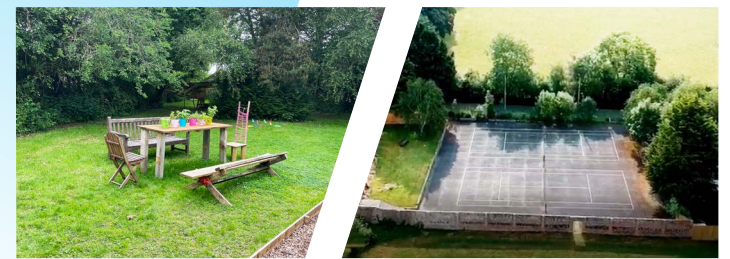
I am so very proud of our school and the inspiring achievements of our young people. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange a visit to see Sedgemoor Manor School for yourself.

**Emily Bott**  
Head Teacher  
Sedgemoor Manor School



## Services summary

- A warm and welcoming school community, with small classes and high staff to student ratios
- A fully integrated and multidisciplinary staff team delivering specialist teaching, care and therapeutic services that lead to excellent outcomes
- Rated 'Good' in all assessment categories by Ofsted during our latest inspection
- Extensive knowledge and experience of supporting children and young people who have a diagnosis of being on the autistic spectrum, and other special educational needs associated with this diagnosis
- The Thrive Approach for supporting wellbeing and developing resilience is embedded across the school, and a number of staff members are Thrive Practitioners
- A broad range of therapeutic support delivered on-site in dedicated therapy rooms, including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, Thrive activities, mindfulness and access to psychological assessments
- Opportunities to experience learning in a range of contexts, including outdoors and in the community
- A peaceful and calming rural setting, a short drive from the M5 motorway



## Achieving positive outcomes for our young people

In 2019, our students achieved the following positive transitions and outcomes:

**100%**

of young people are engaged in age appropriate independence programmes.

**100%**

GCSE pass rate, with 68% of students achieving grade 4 or above.

"Pupils' attainment is good. By the time they leave the school, they achieve qualifications such as GCSEs, according to their abilities. Pupils are aspirational. Because of the support offered by staff, all pupils at the end of Year 11 continue with further education, training or employment. Most stay in the school's sixth form."

**Ofsted January 2019**





# Education services

At Sedgemoor Manor School, we encourage young people to follow their passions and to avoid placing limitations on what they can achieve. We work holistically with each student, guiding them to develop socially and emotionally, and providing them with the tools and strategies to address the challenges that their autism can present. Our aim is that they achieve the academic qualifications for the next step of their life journey, while building the confidence and resilience to pursue their ambitions.

## A broad and balanced curriculum

Every child is unique and every student at Sedgemoor Manor School receives an entirely individualised package of learning and support, tailored to their individual needs, strengths and aspirations. We differ from mainstream schools in that we do not expect our students to fit into what already exists. Highly specialised teachers, therapists and support staff work together closely to create a seamless, integrated approach for each young person. Students are also assigned a learning mentor to support their personal development and re-engagement with learning.

Many of our students have had bad experiences at mainstream schools and time out of education. They often arrive at Sedgemoor Manor School lacking in confidence and disengaged from learning. We carefully transition young people into the school with learning that enables them to experience our ‘culture of success’, with stretching but attainable targets. As they settle into our school, learning becomes more challenging and structured.

Sedgemoor Manor School stands apart from other specialist schools by providing the same wide-ranging educational opportunities as many mainstream settings. Students follow a broad curriculum and study for qualifications, including GCSEs, AQA Unit Awards, Functional Skills, BTECs and Independence Awards via ASDAN. With our support, their learning journey enables every student to achieve accreditation.

We deliver a carefully planned, phased curriculum structure that provides both the challenge and support our children and young people need to succeed and progress. Pupils work in small groups with high staff to student ratios. This enables them to develop their social and emotional skills, and build friendships while receiving the help and care they need to progress academically.



## A nurturing environment that enhances wellbeing

When young people join our school, they enter a warm, supportive and welcoming learning environment where they soon feel secure, valued and understood. Staff build trusting relationships that make our students feel comfortable in school and ready to learn again.

We utilise the Thrive Approach to support our students’ wellbeing and developing resilience is embedded across the school and a number of our staff are practitioners. This approach provides the tools and training to support and measure students’ emotional and social development, and means that our young people are better placed to engage with their learning and with life in general. Thrive draws on recent developments within neuroscience, attachment theory and child development to support how we can work with children to optimise their social and emotional development.

Our students learn to understand their emotions, to become more resilient, and to communicate and interact well with others. We equip them with the tools and strategies to address the difficulties that autism can present, and to maintain good mental health and wellbeing once they leave our school.



## A tranquil and specially adapted learning space

Our beautiful school is situated in a former manor house and has been specifically designed to meet the needs of children and young people with autism. Students learn in comfortable, low arousal spaces that are warm, inviting and purposefully non-institutional. Break out rooms provide safe and quiet places for young people, should they feel anxious or overwhelmed during the day.

The school is located in the stunning Somerset countryside, offering a peaceful, quiet and calming setting. Our extensive grounds provide opportunities to learn outside, the school’s yurt acting as a base for enriching and rewarding activities which build life skills, including outdoor cooking, horticulture and animal care.

Many of our students particularly enjoy looking after our range of rescue animals and find this very calming if they are feeling anxious. A number have also gone on to achieve academic qualifications in animal care.

## Encouraging young people to discover their passion

Our school offers an enrichment curriculum, encouraging young people to experience the joy of discovering an interest or passion outside of their academic life. We want our children to be life-long learners, who are open to new experiences and enjoy developing new skills and knowledge.

By participating in a wide range of activities ranging from orienteering to horse-riding, archery to golf, our pupils develop new skills and talents, build confidence and improve their wellbeing. They also develop new friendship groups and a heightened sense of belonging to our school community.



## Preparing for a brighter future

Developing the social and emotional skills for independent living is a key objective from the very start of each student’s learning journey at Sedgemoor Manor. Young people have opportunities to learn in the community so they acquire the confidence and everyday life skills they will need for the next stage of their journey. Work experience opportunities are provided on and off-site, and students receive careers guidance throughout their time with us. The school is affiliated to two local colleges, opening up a range of options for further learning.

## Working in partnership with parents

While our staff have the expertise to support young people with autism, we know that parents are always the experts on their child. We recognise that we must learn from each other, and work in partnership to fully meet each student’s needs.

Communication with families is regular, open, two-way and led by the child’s Tutor. We provide daily progress updates, as well as consulting on next steps in their education and care. In addition, there are opportunities to meet staff face-to-face with an annual review, parents’ evenings and an annual event celebrating students’ achievements at the school. Staff also provide a range of training for parents to help them support their child at home.

**“I saw my son’s anxiety levels drop within a couple of weeks of being at the school and I have full trust in the staff at Sedgemoor Manor School to continue their work with my son so his future is both productive and happy.”**

**Parent of a student at Sedgemoor Manor School**

## 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 and associated complex 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

Every pupil at Sedgemoor Manor School receives a personalised package of therapy that helps them to address their barriers to learning and prepare to access our curriculum. Our therapy team work closely with teaching staff to ensure a cohesive, consistent approach to therapeutic support is taken across the school. As a result, students develop emotionally and socially, and gain valuable strategies for addressing the challenges that their autism can present.

Our therapy team identifies the issues that may be stopping a young person from learning, and then works with them to remove these barriers. They focus on helping students to manage their emotions and self-regulate. The entire school follows the Thrive Approach to promote the positive mental health and wellbeing of our young people and some staff members are now practitioners.

**Staff help pupils to learn how to understand their emotions and keep themselves safe. Pupils learn strategies to help them manage their emotions.**

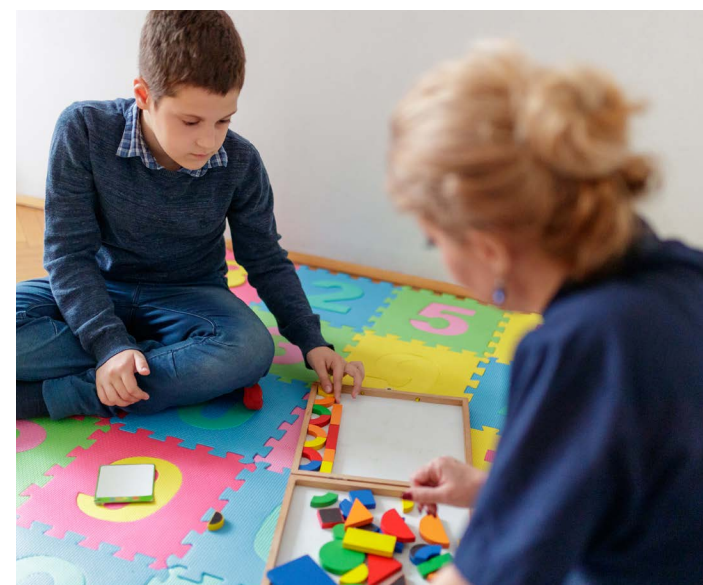
Ofsted January 2019



## Wide-ranging therapy services

Young people have access to wide-ranging services including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, mindfulness and reflexology. This is along with our use of lego, music, Thrive, animals, sports and arts to support with well being and self regulation. This provides students with a safe, calming and accepting space if they are feeling anxious, as well as building confidence and life skills. The school has dedicated therapy rooms, fully resourced to deliver high quality support to our young people.

Our therapists also work with families to help them support their child at home. This provides further opportunities to improve the wellbeing of our young people, and helps them to progress socially and emotionally.



## Leisure and residential activities outside of the classroom

The school accesses the local environment and utilises the school grounds as an educational resource. The school offers sporting and leisure activities including:

- A well-equipped gym
- Art studio including kiln
- Athletics track
- Badminton court
- Cooking
- Cricket nets
- Design technology equipment
- Football and rugby pitches
- Sports hall
- Tennis courts
- Trampolines
- Horse Riding\*
- Swimming\*

\*Offsite provision



**“The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is good. At the core of the work of the school is the focus on supporting pupils to become more self-aware and to understand their own emotional needs. Staff interpret skilfully what pupils say to support their understanding on how best to move them forward with their learning and development.”**

Ofsted January 2019



# Get in touch

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

**Call: 01278 641 632**

**Email: [placements@aspris.com](mailto:placements@aspris.com)**

**Website: [www.aspriscs.co.uk](http://www.aspriscs.co.uk)**

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Highbridge,  
Somerset,  
TA9 4NP

"Sedgemoor Manor School was the best thing that happened to our son for his education and overall development. As parents we could not recommend this school highly enough."

Parent of a student at  
Sedgemoor  
Manor School

"I have experienced many educational settings, both mainstream and specialist, through my own work and my children's placements, and I am not the easiest woman to impress, but Sedgemoor Manor's staff have not only impressed, but exceeded my expectations."

Parent of a student at  
Sedgemoor  
Manor School

