



www.leithhillschool.com



LEITH HILL
SCHOOL

A Specialist School

Opening September 2025 | Surrey, RH5 6LQ



James McInerney
Headteacher

Welcome to Leith Hill School, a co-educational specialist day school for pupils aged 7 to 16. Here each pupil is recognised as an individual and treated with respect. Our aim is to inspire ambition, build resilience, and foster a love of learning. At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to making a meaningful, lifelong impact on our pupils' lives.

At Leith Hill School, we understand that every child is unique. Our pupils benefit from the support of a dedicated team of highly qualified teachers, therapists, and other professionals who collaborate closely to create personalised learning and therapy plans tailored to each child's needs.

Our focus is on helping pupils thrive by nurturing their individual strengths and interests. Working together with our pupils, our staff develop and implement targeted strategies to help overcome and manage the specific challenges which may hinder their learning.

In addition to academic achievement, we emphasise emotional wellbeing, resilience, and the development of social and independent living skills. Our approach is carefully designed through a personal development programme, which includes therapeutic interventions, enrichment activities, and customised learning experiences that aim to build confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of accomplishment.

Partnership with families is fundamental to our values. We are dedicated to collaborating with parents and caregivers to support their child's progress and wellbeing. Through a dedicated Family Liaison Lead and on-site workshops, families receive the support and guidance they need to feel confident and informed about their child's needs, school experience, and future opportunities. At Leith Hill School, we have high aspirations for our pupils and are deeply committed to ensuring they have a fulfilling, enjoyable, and successful experience. We aim to equip them with the skills and confidence to thrive in the future.

Key facts:

Opening to pupils aged 7-14 years in September 2025

Supporting pupils aged 7-16 years at full capacity

Classes based on between 6-8 pupils with a SEN Teacher and LSA. Aims to allow a 1:4 ratio

Supporting unique learner profiles with autism and/or ADHD as a primary need. Pupils are likely to have co-occurring social, emotional and communication difficulties and other associated needs which may affect their wellbeing and enjoyment of learning

Integrating sequenced programmes to provide universal, small group and individual therapeutic interventions

Offering specialist support and specific interventions to 'close gaps' in prior learning

Comprehensive support to pupils in attainment of national qualifications such as GCSEs and equivalent qualifications

Features:



Science lab



Theatre



Dedicated multi use sports hall



Design technology space



Leith Hill School is set in 40 acres of rural Surrey countryside with direct access to woodland walks and exploration, supported through an integrated curriculum of learning outside of the classroom

Our Ethos

Our ethos is to create a supportive and safe learning environment where every individual is valued and respected. In collaboration with parents and families, our dedicated staff are committed to preparing pupils for success in both school, college and their future careers. We empower each pupil to embrace present and future challenges, building resilience, fostering social awareness, community responsibility, and personal growth.

Through the cultivation of an inclusive and innovative learning environment we aim to inspire pupils to explore their potential, develop their skills and talents to become compassionate, life-long learners - without the anxiety often associated with failure. Our approach is carefully organised through a personal development programme. Each programme includes therapy, enrichment and outdoor learning activities, adapted learning, all aimed at boosting confidence and self-esteem by fostering experiences of success.

We are dedicated to providing a well-rounded education that combines academic excellence with personal growth, through an enhanced curriculum, outdoor learning, and carefully set personal targets. Pupils are equipped to navigate life's challenges and achieve meaningful outcomes for their future.

4C's

The foundations of our learning principles are: confidence, competence, creativity and character

Known as the 4Cs, these principles sit at the heart of what we do - they represent the main attributes that we strive to instil in each of our pupils.

confidence

Empowering pupils with confidence in their own abilities and worth is a crucial driver of the curriculum. The school's programme of personal development seeks to enhance communication, independence, responsibility and self-awareness.

competence

Our activities aim to develop proficiency socially, academically and emotionally. We define competence as having the tools to master different situations and scenarios, for example self-regulate emotions, knowing a topic in-depth, or being able to communicate feelings effectively.

creativity

Recognising and nurturing innate creativity is a vital part of our approach. The building of creative skills features strongly in the curriculum, for example by supporting pupils to broaden their thinking so they recognise more than one solution to a given challenge. Another desirable outcome is the ability to capture and break down a broad creative concept into manageable blocks to help our pupils realise their creative visions.

character

In addition to supporting pupils to thrive academically, we enable them to flourish on a personal level. Understanding values such as morality, self-respect, leadership, perseverance, and empathy will help them succeed in the adult world. Other important life skills we embed include the ability to make informed decisions, teamworking and knowing the difference between right and wrong.





What do we offer?

Our Enhanced Curriculum

Our Enhanced Curriculum is tailored to meet the individual needs of our pupils. While based on the National Curriculum, our programmes are designed to help pupils reach their full potential. The structure of the school day allows for flexible pacing and adaptive teaching which supports each child's specific requirements to be met. Learning is supported by the integration of appropriate technology throughout the day and curriculum.

We focus on pupils whose needs may not have been met in a mainstream environment, often due to increased anxiety that has previously hindered their access to education. This may have led to prolonged periods of missed learning, creating gaps in knowledge and potential disengagement from education.

Our goal is to help pupils reshape their view of their abilities and of education. In turn transforming their future. In addition to academic instruction, we provide enrichment activities, comprehensive learning resources, therapeutic support, and personalised approaches. We aim for each pupil to at least achieve the necessary qualifications that open doors to further education and employment opportunities. For some pupils, once they internalise the experience of success, their personal achievements, not just in learning, takes on a new, positive trajectory.

We prioritise English, Maths, Science, and Personal Development (Relationships, Sex, Health, Education), ensuring that every pupil moves to the next stage of education with at least an English, Maths, and Science qualification at the attainment level fulfilling their potential. Our target is for each pupil to achieve at least five qualifications by the end of Year 11, equipping them for the next stage in their educational journey.

We place equal importance on both academic progress and the social-emotional wellbeing of our pupils, offering integrated therapeutic classrooms to ensure their needs are fully supported to optimise their enjoyment and success.

Our goal is to empower pupils to change their perception of their own abilities, which, in turn, can help them shape a brighter future.

Our aim is to help pupils to transform their own perception of their abilities, which in turn can help them transform their future





Our approach is focused on making every interaction throughout the day a therapeutic experience for our pupils.

Our approach

Whether in the classroom, dining room, during sports, or while relaxing in a quiet zone, each therapeutic opportunity is designed to support pupils' wellbeing. Whenever pupils engage with an adult, that staff member will respond in a calm and regulated manner, fostering positive and meaningful interactions.



Achieving Their Full Potential

We believe the true gold standard is for our children to experience a structured approach to learning and interacting with their peers, staff, and our local community whenever possible. This ensures they are best prepared for life and the social interactions which will be required of them beyond the school gates.

The Therapy Team consists of specialists in Mental Health, Emotional Literacy, Speech and Language Therapy, and Occupational Therapy. Alongside our qualified SEN teachers, all of whom have extensive experience working with children with SEN, our therapists work collaboratively with our SEN teachers in classrooms and across the school. This integrated approach helps identify existing or potential barriers to learning and to develop personal strategies to support pupils to overcome them.

Our education staff, working in close liaison with the Therapy Team, incorporate therapeutic strategies and known approaches to enhance learning both in and outside the classroom. This provides pupils with consistent, individual targeted support, empowering them to progress and succeed at their own pace. Over time, pupils are able to internalise and apply these strategies as they journey toward adulthood.

Our integrated therapeutic offers whole-school universal support, targeted support for small groups, and specialist 1:1 sessions for pupils identified on their EHCPs. In partnership with our Family Liaison Lead, the Therapy Team also shares their expertise with parents, helping them address their child's needs at home.

Our Enhanced Day

Our enhanced day offers a flexible timetable designed to meet the individual needs of our pupils. We provide a breakfast club and an enrichment programme that extends learning experiences, focusing on positive social engagement, resilience-building, and emotional wellbeing.

This programme also extends into the community, offering a wide variety of sporting activities, practical tasks, creative and performing arts, as well as outdoor learning experiences.

A key element of our enhanced day is developing pupils' social and independence skills. Many of our pupils travel long distances to school, which can limit their opportunities to interact with peers outside of school hours. The lunchtime clubs and timetabled enrichment activities provide a valuable opportunity for them to connect with their peers across different experiences and interests.

Pupils gain much more than just academic achievement. Participation in these activities strengthens their emotional wellbeing, builds resilience, and fosters greater engagement, confidence, and self-esteem.



Family Liaison

We place great importance on building strong relationships with the families of our pupils. We work closely with parents to develop personalised plans for each child, ensuring that they are involved at every step of the process. Your journey with us begins long before your child starts their first day at Leith Hill.

Our pupils often have a range of needs that cannot be met within mainstream or other traditional specialist SEMH schools. From the outset, we collaborate with you to understand your child's unique situation and requirements. Once we agree that Leith Hill is the right choice, with Local Authority approval, we begin a carefully tailored transition process. This includes multiple visits for both you and your child to ensure they feel part of our school community from day one.

Our Family Liaison team works directly with children and their families, both at home and within the school, to foster and strengthen the relationship between parents/carers and children. This collaborative approach helps promote long-term engagement and enjoyment of learning. The Family Liaison team also works closely with the Therapy Team, the Education Team, and other professionals to develop multi-agency support programmes, both short-term and long-term, to best support the needs of each child.

Our People

We have worked tirelessly to create a school that delivers a first-class education for our pupils.

The school's vision – to nurture aspiration, develop resilience, and empower learning – shapes every aspect of our work. Our leaders and staff hold exceptionally high expectations for both pupils' achievements and behaviour, and pupils respond positively to these expectations. They develop a keen awareness of their own needs and are highly attuned to the progress they have made since joining the school.



Our School

The beautiful outside space, the carefully designed buildings, coveted facilities, and amenities at Leith Hill School are thoughtfully considered to provide the best possible environment for our pupils. While creating an ideal educational setting, we have also carefully considered the unique needs of our SEN cohorts, paying particular attention to interior design, colour schemes, and sensory experiences.



Our location allows us to offer a wide range of outdoor activities, including both sports and free play, as well as bespoke activities tailored to meet the specific needs of our children.



Visiting and applying for a place

Leith Hill School is able to accommodate a range of needs through our specialist approach within a mainstream-style school. Primarily we support pupils with autism and associated conditions such as ADHD, social communication difficulties, emotional vulnerability and prior disaffection with learning.

It is expected that some pupils at Leith Hill School may have some gaps in their school learning, but with specific interventions are cognitively able to align with national levels of attainment across the National Curriculum in a short space of time. It is anticipated that most of the pupils at our school will have an EHCP, and in turn be supported by Local Authority funding. Each application is considered individually to ensure the best fit for the child.

3-Step Assessment and Admission Process

Step 1 - Visit to the school and meet the other pupils and staff. Liaise with school to determine appropriateness of provision in principle. Parents request school consultation from the Local Authority.

Step 2 - School receives permission to assess from the Local Authority. A comprehensive step 2 assessment is likely to include a home visit, discussions with the previous school, and relevant professionals.

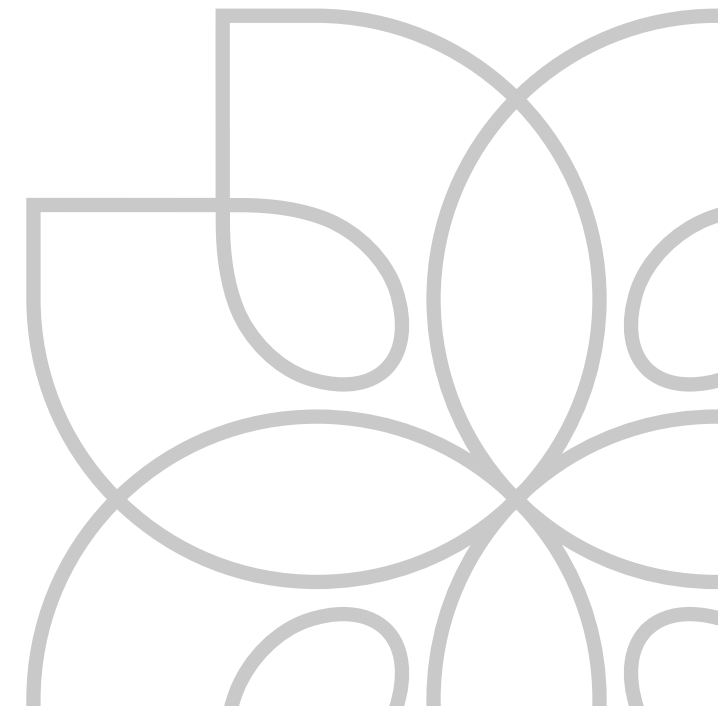
Leith Hill Admissions panel agrees to proceed to a 3rd and final step of assessment. If at this point the Leith Hill admissions panel believes that we would not be the right school for a child, the LA is notified.

Step 3 – When all parties, (parent(s), the LA and the school) believe that the school is very likely to be able to meet the needs of the child, a visit to the school is arranged for the child where discreet observational assessments are completed by our specialist SEN Teachers and therapists. Further discussions with professional stakeholders may take place. If the child feels comfortable and enjoys their visit, and the school believes that it can fully meet the child's needs, then a formal offer of placement is made to the LA.

The Local Authority accepts the school's offer of a placement and advises the parent of the outcome. The school then contacts the parent to create an individualised transition programme.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss any aspect of this assessment process, please contact : admissions@LeithHillSchool.com

Images contained in this prospectus are representative only and are a mix of stock and shared photos from other schools in the Cavendish Education group.





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