

Aspris



Rossendale
School

Growing together to reach potential







Hello and welcome

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to welcome you to Aspris Rossendale School and be the first to say how delighted we are that you have chosen to visit and see what we have to offer.

It is an absolute privilege to be the Headteacher of this wonderful school. As a parent myself, I understand the importance of choosing the right school for your child. The staff at Rossendale School are immensely proud of what we have built, made even more special by our truly amazing pupils.

We are an Autism school with inclusion at the heart of all we do. We understand the privileged position we hold when you entrust your child to our care and our key responsibility is to ensure every child achieves their academic potential. I have always believed in the power of education to change lives and provide choices.

As a school, we are committed to helping our pupils achieve and fulfil their potential. Many of our pupils perform well at GCSE level, enabling them to pursue further education pathways such as sixth form, college, or through apprenticeships.

Our staff are dedicated to creating a learning environment that engages pupils and stretches their thinking. Where needed, pupils are supported through high-quality intervention.

I want children to gain the excellent exam results they deserve providing a gateway to their future while also enjoying and valuing the journey. We place great importance on offering a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including numerous extra-curricular activities, sports fixtures, and trips. We are passionate about shaping and developing the whole child, so that all our pupils grow into confident and creative young adults who will make a positive contribution to society.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange a visit and see the school for yourself.

George Mills

Headteacher

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Our values

Our values guide our actions, shape our school community, and inspire our pupils to grow into thoughtful, confident, and compassionate individuals. We believe that education is more than academic achievement – it's about nurturing character, encouraging curiosity, and fostering a sense of belonging.

We believe in more than just academic success. Our aim is to support each young person to build resilience, rediscover their confidence and leave school ready for a happy, healthy and fulfilling life.

Through education, therapy, and life experiences, like volunteering and work placements, we help pupils find their voice and place in the world.

Read more about our values below:

Respect

We value ourselves, others, and the world around us

We listen carefully, celebrate differences, and treat everyone with fairness, dignity, and understanding.

Kindness

We choose to act with compassion and care

We support one another, build positive relationships, and create a welcoming community where everyone feels safe and valued.

Aspiration

We aim high and believe in our potential

We encourage curiosity, ambition, and a love of learning, inspiring every child to achieve their very best and prepare for the future.

Resilience

We face challenges with determination and courage

We learn from mistakes, persevere when things are difficult, and grow stronger through every experience.



School overview

Rated 'Good' overall by Ofsted with 'Outstanding' features, Rossendale School supports young people across the North West aged 7–16 years with autism and who are academically able.

Developing resilient pupils

Rossendale School consists of two school sites, the main school site and the Rawtenstall Campus site. The main school is for our KS3 and KS4 pupils and the Rawtenstall Campus site is for our KS2 and KS3 pupils. Many of our pupils have experienced disrupted education, and we offer them a fresh start with specialist teaching and therapeutic support tailored to the way they think and learn.

We pride ourselves on creating a warm, friendly and supportive atmosphere where relationships matter. Respect, kindness and understanding are central to daily school life. When young people join us, they enter a welcoming environment where they soon feel safe, valued and understood. Those who have previously faced challenges in education often settle quickly and begin to make progress across all areas of school life.

Our small class groups are supported by highly experienced staff who get to know each young person well and understand exactly what is needed to help them thrive day-to-day. Our broad and balanced curriculum follows the National Curriculum and offers a wide range of accredited pathways, including GCSEs, entry-level qualifications and essential life-skills learning.

This combination enables young people to achieve academically while developing the confidence and independence they need for a happy and healthy adult life.



What makes us unique?

Our person-centred ethos shapes every aspect of life at Rossendale School. With a high staff-to-pupil ratio, we are able to provide young people with a more focused and meaningful attention during their time with us. Our small class sizes are led by well-qualified staff who create nurturing, structured learning environments.

All staff are experienced and trained to recognise and respond to young people's sensory needs, helping them feel regulated and ready to learn. We also offer a range of in-house therapeutic services, providing holistic support tailored to each individual.

Our mission

Our aim is to empower every pupil to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential by providing opportunities for meaningful development and progress. We are committed to recognising and addressing each child's unique needs, strengths, and aspirations within a nurturing, inclusive, and supportive environment.

Learning that develops confidence

Every pupil at Rossendale School receives a school experience of learning and support, shaped around their needs, strengths and aspirations. Many of our young people have had difficult experiences in mainstream settings or time away from education, and may arrive feeling unsure of themselves or disconnected from learning.

From the moment they join us, we take great care to help them settle in at a pace that feels right for them. Our nurturing relationships, gentle transitions and consistent support help pupils rebuild their confidence and self-esteem, allowing them to feel safe, valued and ready to learn.

At Rossendale School, our aim is simple: to help every young person achieve their full potential within a caring and supportive environment. Our specialist teachers, therapists and support staff work together closely, creating a seamless approach around each pupil. By focusing on wellbeing, communication, confidence and engagement, we lay the foundations for the excellent academic, social and personal outcomes our pupils go on to achieve.



A nurturing approach to education

- Ensuring continuity and progression within the school and between phases of education
- Empowering young people to become confident, responsible, healthy, safe learners and citizens
- Developing identity, sense of self-worth and positive self-esteem
- Supporting young people to self-regulate and manage their emotions
- Helping young people to understand and develop social, moral, cultural and spiritual values
- Teaching methods are built around providing structure and routine, with clear expectations for all pupils
- Individual needs are respected, especially for young people who may find working with others more challenging
- Small class sizes allow pupils to spend substantial time with staff, enabling more intensive, focused support
- Personalised plans helps pupils make significant progress quickly
- Working in small groups helps pupils feel comfortable taking part in lessons
- Pupils learn to collaborate, begin forming friendships and start to enjoy school life

Curriculum summary

Our curriculum is highly ambitious, specialist and designed to ensure that every pupil's needs are fully met. We provide an ambitious and varied curriculum that supports pupils to develop knowledge and skills as appropriate to their age, ability and stage of development.

Rich and varied curriculum

The curriculum at Rossendale School is carefully designed and thoughtfully delivered, helping pupils of all abilities achieve positive outcomes. We encourage our young people to be ambitious about their futures and to understand the value of contributing to their community and wider society.

What makes Rossendale truly stand out is the breadth of opportunities we offer. Alongside specialist support, pupils can access a wide range of academic and vocational pathways—similar to those available in mainstream schools. Our Year 11 pupils have been able to work towards more than 30 different accreditations, giving them real choice and ownership over their learning journey.

Through opportunities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, pupils develop new skills, increase their confidence and enhance their wellbeing. They also make friends, connect with others and develop a strong sense of belonging within our school community.



Subjects include:

- English, maths and science
- Art, design technology and music
- History, humanities and geography
- Computer science
- PE
- Media studies
- Food studies

Qualifications include:

- GCSEs
- BTEC
- Functional skills
- Entry level
- Duke of Edinburgh Award

Teaching approach

We understand that for young people with complex needs, learning is about more than just academic progress, it is about feeling safe, confident, and supported to grow in their own time and way.

Working with pupils to achieve their aspirations

Education at Rossendale School is broad, balanced and ambitious. We support pupils to become hardworking, independent learners who are highly motivated to achieve their full potential, whilst also developing the life skills they need for adulthood. We build trust through positive relationships and help them take brave steps forward both in and out of the classroom.

The purpose of our school is to help prepare young people to make a successful transition into adulthood with the resilience and the necessary skills to live as independently as possible and participate in their local community.

We seek to increase achievement and independence to give our pupils the best possible opportunities to gain employment or access further education and enable them to go on to live the life they choose.



Wellbeing support

As well as helping our pupils achieve academically, we take great care to support their whole wellbeing. We offer a safe, nurturing environment where young people can build confidence, try new experiences, make friends and develop important life skills such as communication and teamwork.

Many of our pupils experience mental health challenges that can affect their learning and emotional growth. Our experienced therapy team is here to help. They provide tailored support based on each pupil's individual needs, helping them overcome barriers, manage difficult feelings and re-engage with learning. When pupils are going through particularly challenging times, we can offer more intensive support to help them feel safe, supported and ready to move forward.

Our caring and specialist team includes a school counsellor, CAMHs specialist, creative play therapist, Occupational Therapists and a Speech and Language Therapist. Together, they work closely with pupils to build resilience, strengthen communication and support their overall wellbeing.

Dedication to learning: our locations

Our school is made up of a main school site and a community-based provision. Together, these locations create one community where pupils can learn, grow and build their independence in settings tailored to their individual needs.

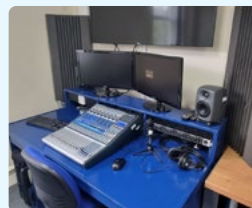
Achieving potential together

Main site: The main site is located within a rural area which offers a calm and quiet environment for our young people. We have large outdoor spaces which can be used for unstructured times, learning experiences and for sensory breaks. This also includes a designated trim trail and pond area.

There are specialist classrooms which accommodate food studies, science laboratory, ICT suite, DT and art. We have a dedicated therapy space for our inhouse therapy team, which enables the pupils to access therapeutic support in a private and safe space.

Rawtenstall campus: The site is based within the local community which affords itself to experiential learning. Pupils can use the local community to develop their life skills, social interactions and work experience opportunities. The primary department is located here which offers a nurturing and welcoming environment. There is outdoor space which can be used during unstructured times as well as to help pupils to regulate during sensory breaks.

We have specialist classrooms including food studies room, science laboratory, media suite, music room, occupational therapy room and sensory spaces.



Rawtenstall campus

A community-based site offering nurturing learning, specialist facilities, and outdoor spaces to support pupils' life skills, wellbeing, and development.

**Rawtenstall Campus,
Crankshaw Street,
Rawtenstall,
Lancs,
BB4 7SH**

Main site

A peaceful rural site offering spacious outdoor areas, specialist facilities, and private therapy spaces to support pupils' learning, wellbeing, and development.

**Rossendale School,
Bamford Road,
Ramsbottom,
BL0 0RT**



Specialist facilities

Our facilities are thoughtfully designed to create a calm, welcoming, and accessible environment where every pupil feels at ease and inspired to learn. Whether arriving for the first time or returning each day, pupils can expect a space that nurtures both their academic growth and personal wellbeing.

Here's what they'll find:

- Design technology workshop
- Food technology kitchen
- ICT suite and science labs
- Media studio
- Music suite
- Quiet spaces and sensory relaxing areas
- Outdoor play areas

Every corner has been designed with intention, offering pupils a safe and supportive base where they feel seen, valued, and truly at home.

"After failed placements within mainstream schools, all staff at Rossendale School support my son to flourish and focus on him trying to achieve. They celebrate what he can do and the support is outstanding."

Parent of a pupil



Careers support

We're determined to help young people prepare for their future, not just with qualifications, but with the confidence, knowledge and real-world experience to take their next steps with purpose. We follow the Gatsby Benchmarks, preparing young people for adulthood and life beyond school - whether that's further education, employment, apprenticeships or training.

Work experience programme

We offer a wide range of work experience opportunities to pupils in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). These experiences help pupils explore their interests, gain confidence and begin to understand what future employment might look like for them. Work placements also give pupils the chance to practise communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills in real-life settings, preparing them for adulthood and increasing their independence.

Every placement is a bespoke arrangement, shaped around the pupil's individual needs, strengths and aspirations. We work closely with each young person to understand what type of placement will suit them best. For example, some pupils feel most comfortable completing a short, focused block of work, while others benefit from attending a placement one day per week over a longer period. Whatever the approach, our aim is to make sure each experience feels positive, achievable and meaningful.

Before starting a placement, pupils are supported by both our internal and external careers advisors. Pupils have a career interview, alongside their annual careers interview, where they talk through their interests, future pathways and career goals. This allows our advisors to provide a bespoke and personalised package for them, which not only matches their interest and desires, but allows us to provide any support needed to ensure they have a meaningful and successful placement. By working in partnership with local employers, community organisations and vocational providers, we ensure that every young person has the opportunity to take their next steps with confidence, curiosity and a real sense of purpose.



Careers education starts early and builds over time

Every young person at Rossendale School has access to:

- Independent careers advice for personalised support and guidance
- Information about further education, training and apprenticeships, and employment routes
- Guest speakers from various industries
- Workplace visits and work experience placements
- Work 'taster' events such as games and competitions
- Careers fairs and career networking events
- Open days at further education institutions
- Help with basic career management skills like job searches and job interviews



Positive quotes and stories

Discover a range of stories and quotes from Ofsted and parents about how our dedicated and experienced team supported pupils to settle in, enjoy their learning and succeed.

"Focused on education."

"The staff team at Rossendale [School] are incredible. They have supported [my son] so well that within 12 months he was out of crisis and focused on education. They have been amazing at listening to him, finding [his] strengths and helping him develop and grow those whilst putting sympathetic and constructive support in place so he can grow in the other areas he struggles with. [My son] used to hate school and never thought he would have friends and interests and prospects, but the transformation is there. [He] is inspired, happy and has grown in confidence."

Parent



"Calm and orderly."

"Pupils are challenged to be their best. The school is ambitious for them. In many ways, the curriculum ensures that pupils fulfil these ambitions. Typically, pupils achieve well after a disruptive previous educational experience."

Pupils learn in classrooms which are calm and orderly. They learn how to behave well, supported by high-quality pastoral support which staff provide. From time to time, when pupils find it hard to control their behaviour, staff respond thoughtfully to help them to regulate their feelings. Overall, pupils show tolerance and respect for each other's needs and differences."

Ofsted

"A vast range of experiences."

"The school ensures that pupils learn beyond the academic curriculum. There is a vast range of experiences for them, which are intentionally planned. This prepares pupils very well for adulthood and life beyond the school. For example, pupils help in their local area as part of completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award, developing their life skills."

Ofsted



"Personal development is at the heart of the school."

"Pupils' personal development is at the heart of the school. The school is resolute in providing pupils with every opportunity to succeed in life. Pupils benefit from an exceptional careers programme. Many pupils complete work experience in a variety of settings. There are many visits to support pupils' learning, such as Year 9 visiting caves as part of their geology topic. Pupils are taught how to budget effectively, travel independently and how to shop. Pupils are taught about different religions and festivals. Pupils learn to be empathetic to those less fortunate than themselves through charity events, which they organise."

Ofsted



How to find us

Whether you're visiting us for the first time or returning again, this page will help you find us quickly and confidently, with clear directions and handy travel tips to make your journey as smooth as possible.

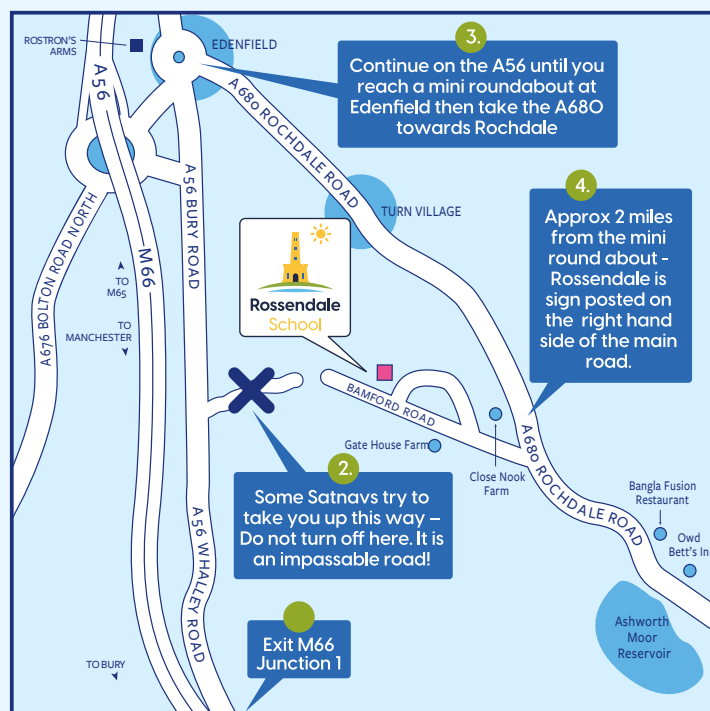
From M62/M60 - Leave at Junction 18 on to M66 and follow directions below from M66.

From M66 - Leave at Junction 1 signposted Ramsbottom A56. At the traffic lights at the end of the sliproad turn right onto the A56. Continue for approximately 4½ miles into the village of Edenfield. At the mini roundabout with a pub on the left called the Rostron Arms turn right (back on yourself) signposted Rochdale A680. Climb up through Turn Village for approximately 2½ miles. The road straightens out and at the end of the straight there is 'Slow' marked on the road and a triangular school sign on the left. Turn right – there is a directional sign to Rossendale School at the entrance. Follow the road until it divides into two, take the right hand fork. We are at the end of this road. On entering the car park, you will see a single storey building on the right. Reception is at the top of the ramp into this building.

From M65 - Follow signs for the M66/Bury & Manchester. Exit the dual carriageway at the 'Motorway Ahead' exit, signposted A676 Ramsbottom & Bolton and A680 Edenfield & Rochdale and follow signs for Edenfield. Turn 1st left off the slip road and follow road to T junction and then turn left again. You will come to a mini roundabout with a pub on the left called the Rostron Arms turn right (back on yourself) signposted Rochdale A680. Climb up through Turn Village for approximately 2½ miles. The road straightens out and at the end of the straight there is 'Slow' marked on the road and a triangular school sign on the left.

There is a directional sign to Rossendale School at the entrance. Follow the road until it divides into two, take the right hand fork. We are at the end of this road. On entering the car park, you will see a single storey building on the right. Reception is at the top of the ramp into this building.

NB - If you are using Sat Nav you cannot access the school from the A56 and need to use the A680.



Small steps of encouragement

Connecting with our community is key to helping young people grow in confidence, independence and purpose. That's why we actively build strong, meaningful relationships with local businesses, charities and organisations. Through these partnerships, we create hands-on, real-world opportunities that allow pupils to gain valuable experience, contribute to their community and feel genuinely proud of the difference they are making.

Whether it's volunteering, work experience, collaborative projects or supporting local events, these experiences help pupils understand their strengths and see how their skills can be used in positive ways. They also open the door to new interests, new friendships and a deeper sense of belonging.

Most importantly, our community links do more than develop practical skills - they help young people feel connected to the world around them. By engaging with people beyond school, pupils grow in confidence, build resilience and develop a clearer sense of who they are and what they want to achieve.

Enrolment process

We know that choosing the right school is a big decision especially when your child experiences the world differently. At our school, we work closely with families and local authorities to make sure our setting is the right fit for each young person. Using tailored care and support, we shape your child's life helping them grow into the person you know they'll become.

Making informed decisions

Admissions criteria:

- Have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Aged 7-16 years
- Have an autism diagnosis
- Are academically able

Our aim is always to make informed decisions that prevent placement breakdowns, which can lead to further feelings of rejection and failure for the pupil. We strive to ensure that every placement is in the best interest of the pupil and the school community.

Process

Once a request for a place is received and the above criteria is met, here's what happens next:

Step 1 Referral received

Once a referral is received from the local authority, our experienced team will review the information.

Step 2 School visit and interview

If we think we can offer the right support, we will invite you and your child to visit our school. This is a great opportunity for you to ask any questions and for us to observe your child and gain a better understanding of their needs.

Step 3 Placement decision

If a placement is appropriate, we will contact your local authority and make a formal placement offer.

Step 4 Induction period

We will give your child the time and support they need to integrate into our school environment.

Step 5 Progress review

After 10-12 weeks, we will arrange a meeting to discuss your child's progress and transition into our school.

Let's connect

If you want to find out more about anything you've read in our prospectus or, if you'd like to talk about how Rossendale School can support you and your child, please contact us below.

Call: 01706 822779

Email: Rossendale@aspriscs.co.uk

Website: www.aspris.com/rossendale-school

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Lancashire,
BL0 0RT



Scan here to
learn more!

