



The Grove

We are a Free School Academy - Part of SEARCH Education Trust

A specialist all-through school in Haringey for autistic pupils aged 5–19.

Ofsted Rated Outstanding (2023) in all areas and
NAS Advance Autism Accreditation (2020 & 2023).

Our Vision & Values



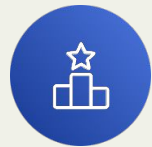
Vision

To Make a Difference & Change lives for the better through personalised, autism-specialist education



Mission

Inspire Excellence, Champion Potential, and Empower Learning.



SEARCH Values

Support, Empathy, Accept, Resilience, Compassion & Honesty are woven into everything we do





Personalised Learning Environment



Individual Focus

Every child is unique. We encourage individual strengths and interests, recognising that each learner is different.

Low Arousal Design

Predictable, clearly demarcated spaces promote independence and calm. Total communication approach supports functional communication and social understanding.

Admissions

Requires autism diagnosis and EHCP naming The Grove. In year admissions with priority to Haringey pupils.



Sensory Spaces



Outdoor Areas



Life Skills Suite



Indoor Gym

Curriculum & Progression Pathways

Key Stages 1-3

Flexible pathways tailored to individual needs. Pupils move between pathways as they progress, focusing on accessible learning and functional literacy and numeracy.

Key Stage 4

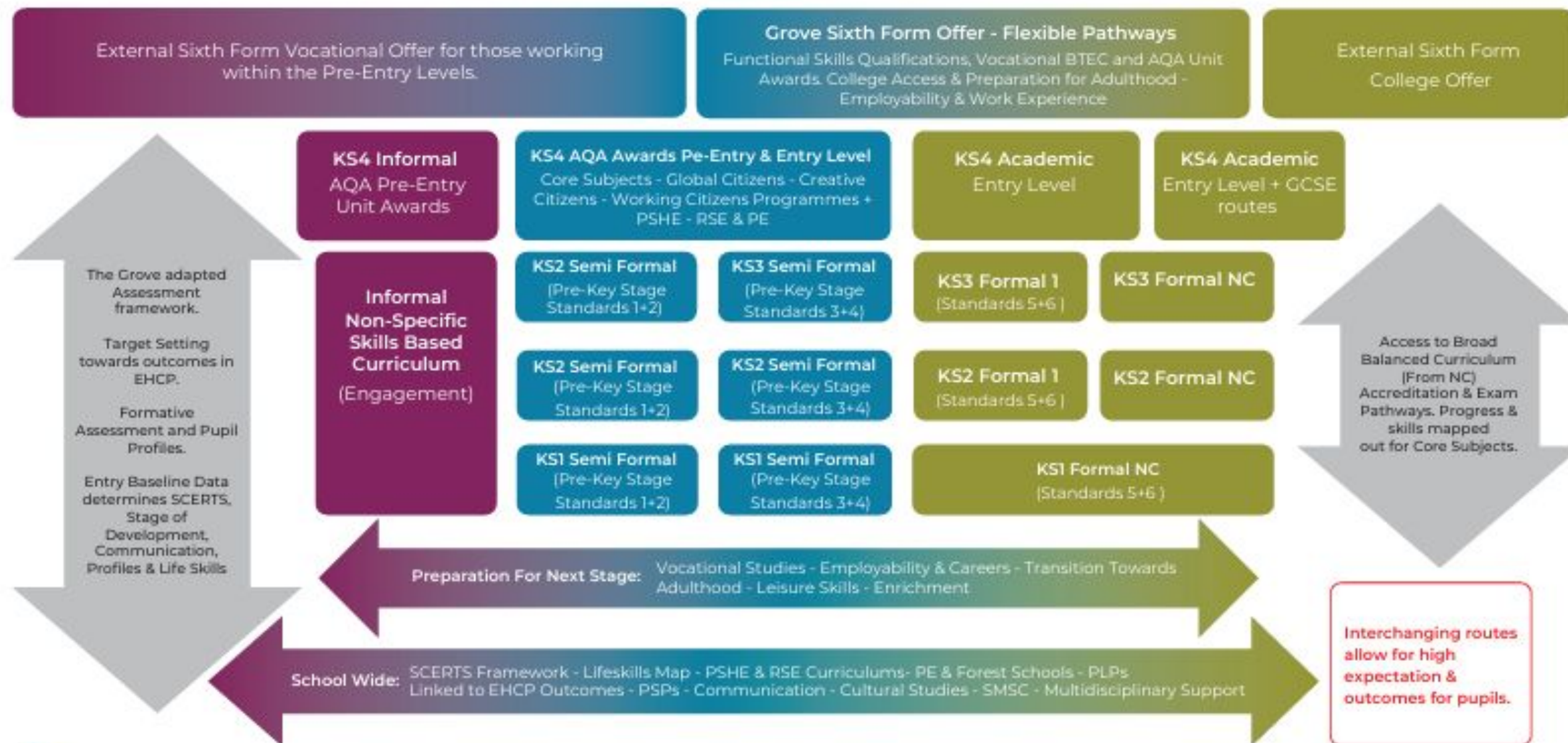
Nationally accredited awards and exams, mainly Pre-Entry and Entry Level. Some pupils pursue BTEC and GCSE courses based on individual potential.

Sixth Form (KS5)

Independence-focused programmes preparing students for life beyond school. Careers and employment training opportunities for Pre-Intern Programme. Students leave with nationally recognised awards and clear pathways.



Curriculum Pathways Offer



Expert Teaching



Approaches



SCERTS Framework

Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, and Transactional Supports to build foundational skills



Visuals & Structures

Structure, predictable environments, Total Communication approaches, core boards



Attention Autism

Building communication and shared engagement through interactive, motivating activities



Trauma Informed

Recognising and responding to the effects of trauma through a safe, supportive, learning environment.

Personal Learning Plans and Support Plans highlight individual strengths and needs, with personalised targets set collaboratively with families and pupils. Learning is made accessible, meaningful, and fun through movement breaks and manageable task chunks.



Teaching Philosophy & Expectations

Modified Curriculum: Autism friendly without sacrificing challenge. Focus is placed on developing functional skills and life skills directed towards adulthood and employability.

Holistic Learning: Learning includes academic, personal, social, and emotional elements to maximize independence. Learning extends beyond the classroom to include the community and home, requiring high engagement with families.

Expectations: Learning is most effective when it takes place in a secure, stable, and stimulating environment that is autism friendly. Lessons match individual needs, learning styles, and attainment. Flexibility in approaches key to respond to pupil needs.

Learning Outcomes: Focus is on developing pupils who are ready to learn. This means their additional needs have been met and they are regulated.

School Wide Systems

Autism Specific Teaching Approaches

- TEACCH,
- SCERTS,
- Visuals & Symbols
- Augmentative & Alternative Communication
- Intensive Interaction
- Attention Autism
- Makaton
- Language Adaptation
- Individual Programmes

Regulation & Wellbeing Approaches

- Sensory Integration,
- Zone of Regulation
- PBS
- Transitions
- Structure & Schedules (Task schedules, Now & Next)
- Environmental Adaptations (Low Arousal and Predictable)
- Support Programmes
- Thrive & Trauma Informed



Wellbeing, Partnership & Enrichment



Therapeutic Model

Embedded Speech & Language, Occupational, Art, and Music Therapy across curriculum

Positive Behaviour Support & Wellbeing

Proactive, person-centred PBS approach viewing behaviour as communication.

Individual rewards matched to pupil interests.



Family Partnership

Termly progress meetings, annual reviews, home visits, and training programmes based on parent feedback

Life Skills Focus

Functional skills curriculum enabling substantially independent lives, tracked via Life Skills Progression Map and Passport.



Enrichment Programme

Work experience, residential visits, and clubs supporting physical, emotional, and social development

Safeguarding Culture

Dedicated DSL and pastoral team with a team approach to supporting areas of vulnerability

Tour Groups & Questions

- Post 16 Tour
- Secondary KS4
- Secondary KS3
- Primary

