

Prospectus 2025 - 2026



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Welcome to The Phoenix School.

We are an alternative education provision based in Altrincham. We aim to provide a warm, welcoming and supportive environment in which our children enjoy working and achieving together.

We understand that all children are individuals and their journeys will be unique. We are committed to meeting the needs of every child at the school and have high expectations of all children whatever their needs and abilities. We take a holistic approach, teaching a creative, inclusive and enriched curriculum that helps every child reach his or her potential. We work hard to ensure that a child's individual challenges are addressed and monitored so that every child makes progress, both academically and emotionally.

We welcome parents/carers as partners in their children's education, for it is only through true partnership – based on trust, co-operation and support – that we can do the very best for our children.

Our aim is that every child at The Phoenix School will be able to re-join mainstream education within 2 years.

Our Strategic Aims

- Excellent education: our school puts the pursuit of an outstanding educational experience for all children at the heart of everything it does.
- Inclusion: we open doors for all our children and staff, creating partnerships that enable them all to thrive here – including closing gaps in attainment for all.
- Diversity: we celebrate all people, avenues of thought and opportunity to offer a broad and balanced curriculum that affords multiple routes into learning.
- Care: we create a supportive environment for our children, providing them with a range of care to help them grow in a school environment, both educationally and personally – and for our staff, so that the Phoenix School remains a great place both to develop and work.



The Phoenix School is a school:

- With creativity at its core
- Where outstanding teaching and learning leads to excellent standards
- Where everybody matters
- Where great care is taken to provide a high-quality learning environment that is able to respond to the children's needs
- Where we aim to develop responsible citizens of the future
- Where we actively draw on and involve our community

Children of all abilities work together in the same class. The style of teaching in the classes is varied and great importance is placed on all the children's individual needs. The children are only taught as a minimal class, in small groups and individually. Teachers and support staff work together in classrooms to increase the opportunities for pupil-teacher interaction.

Our Vision

Our vision is to remove barriers to learning and participation, provide an education that is appropriate to pupils' needs, and promote high standards and the fulfilment of potential for all pupils.

In order to achieve this, at Phoenix School we:

- promote positive relationships, active engagement, and wellbeing for all children;
- ensure all pupils can access the best possible teaching; and
- adopt a positive and proactive approach to behaviour.

Our Values

We are proud of our school values and they are reflected in everything we do. They are our moral compass, set the standard for behaviour and are instilled throughout our curriculum.

They are:

- Respect
- Integrity
- Creativity
- Excellence
- Resilience

We have an unwavering commitment to inclusion and diversity with the aim and objective that each and every one of our pupils has a full sense of belonging within our school and our community.

Our Curriculum

The curriculum underpins all that we do and lies at the heart of raising standards. Our curriculum has been carefully considered to ensure broad and balanced opportunities for all children to develop and learn. As a staff team, we have worked together to design a programme that promotes high levels of challenge and achievement and ensures pupils are well prepared for each key stage, secondary education and for adult life in modern Britain.

At the centre of our curriculum are our five key values, which together form a whole school vision. These drivers give the children the skills and strategies necessary to be lifelong learners and successful adults.

In addition, we have a core focus on pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) that is embedded in all areas of the curriculum. A positive school ethos, which emphasises effort and achievement, encourages pupils to respect themselves and others, develop a strong sense of self-esteem and become confident individuals who can flourish and thrive.

Pupils in Key Stage Three have access to the AQA Unit Award Scheme.

The Unit Award Scheme (UAS) allows all students to engage with learning and have their achievements formally recognised.

Learners are rewarded with a certificate each time they successfully complete a unit of learning. They can build up a portfolio of certificates to evidence their skills, knowledge and experience.

The scheme boosts confidence, increases engagement and improves motivation, helping learners to make progress on their lifelong learning journey.

Reading

At the Phoenix School, we believe that the ability to read proficiently is key to developing competent learners. Phonics teaching is available to every child and books will be age appropriate.

Daily reading happens at the Phoenix School so that we can

1. Build Strong Literacy Foundations

- Expands vocabulary and grammar knowledge.

- Improves spelling, word recognition, and comprehension.
- Supports writing skills by exposing children to different styles.

2. Boost Cognitive Development

- Strengthens memory, focus, and critical thinking.
- Enhances imagination and creativity.
- Develops problem-solving and reasoning skills through stories and information.

3. Support Academic Success

- Reading fluency is closely linked to success in all subjects.
- Improves ability to follow instructions, understand questions, and explain answers.
- Children who read daily often achieve higher results in school assessments.

4. Encourage a Love of Learning

- Regular exposure to stories makes reading enjoyable rather than a chore.
- Builds curiosity about the world.
- Fosters lifelong independent learning skills.

5. Strengthen Emotional & Social Skills

- Helps children understand feelings and perspectives of others.
- Provides opportunities for discussion with parents/carers and teachers.

Physical activity

At the Phoenix School, we believe that daily physical activity will:

1. Physical Health

- Helps prevent obesity and lifestyle diseases.
- Builds strength, stamina, flexibility, and coordination.
- Encourages lifelong healthy habits.

2. Mental Wellbeing

- Reduces stress and anxiety through physical activity.
- Boosts self-esteem and confidence.
- Improves focus, concentration, and memory, supporting academic performance.

3. Social Development

- Teaches teamwork, cooperation, and communication.
- Builds friendships across year groups.
- Encourages respect for rules and fair play.

4. Character Building

- Develops discipline, resilience, and perseverance.
- Teaches how to handle success and failure gracefully.
- Fosters leadership and decision-making skills.

5. Academic Benefits

- Studies show active students perform better academically.
- Regular exercise improves brain function and classroom behaviour.
- Sports can reinforce time management and balance between study and play.

6. Inclusivity & Opportunity

- Provides a platform for all students, regardless of academic ability, to shine.
- Encourages diversity by exposing pupils to different games and cultures.

Positive Relationships and Behaviour

We expect the best behaviour from our children. At the Phoenix School, the children are well-behaved and work hard, showing respect for others and the school. They are encouraged to be courteous, helpful and to reflect the ethos of our school at all times.

We have a restorative approach to resolving conflict and work hard to develop positive relationships at all levels throughout the school and work through the process of protect, relate, regulate and reflect in order to support this.

The behaviour policy at the Phoenix School is based on all members of the school community living the five school values (respect, integrity, creativity, excellence and resilience) through agreed expectations that are developed in each class at the start of the year. Behaviour choices are rewarded and sanctioned in a consistent way across the school - with parents/carers informed about both positive and negative choices.

Class teachers are always the starting point for these relationships and take great care to:

- Treat children respectfully and as individuals
- Ensure that all primary interventions are in place constantly
- Establish clear routines

- Communicate expectations of behaviour in ways other than verbally
- Highlight and promote good behaviour
- Conclude the day positively and start the next day afresh
- Have a plan for dealing with low-level disruption
- Use positive reinforcement

Why choose the Phoenix School?

- We are a nurturing and inclusive school with exceptional pastoral care
- We live our values and instil them throughout the curriculum
- Our provision for children's personal development and welfare is outstanding
- We provide a welcoming and friendly environment for learning
- We have excellent staff and a strong sense of community.

