



Radlett Lodge School

Welcome to my
school

Enjoying my
school is part of
MyProgress®



Geraldine Mendonça

Welcome to Radlett Lodge School

Radlett Lodge School offers specialist provision for children and young people with autism and other associated needs. It was recently judged to be 'Good' by Ofsted, with their January 2020 report stating that 'the care and welfare of pupils is at the heart of the school's work.'

We work with children across the 4 to 19 age range, providing day placements for 43 and residential accommodation for 12. We also offer flexi-boarding to pupils attending the school.

Our approach is simple; we place children at the centre of all that we do and tailor all of our teaching, therapy programmes and care to their personal needs, to ensure that our provision is as individual as they are.

This 'team around the child' comprises teachers, learning support assistants, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists; all of whom work towards the same goal of ensuring our pupils' continuous progress and development.

But as with all human endeavour, it's not the structures that lead to success, it's the people; and here at Radlett Lodge we have a team of staff absolutely committed to meeting the needs of every single child.

And we are also fully committed to working with parents and carers. We understand autism from your perspective and know that effective, consistent home-school partnerships are essential if we are able to best support our pupils. That's what makes us special and I hope it will encourage you to find out more.

Best wishes,

Geraldine Mendonça
Principal

We're autism specialists



“Radlett Lodge School understands and supports my child in the most wonderful way. He receives superb care and attention by the wonderful staff there. As parents, we think that the school is amazing and we have the utmost confidence in it.”

Parent

Unbeatable expertise and experience

At Radlett Lodge School we specialise in educating children with autism. Every member of our staff is highly trained in autism, and as a team we draw on an unbeatable level of expertise.

We've been teaching and caring for children with autism for over 40 years. Our knowledge is grounded in experience and every day we work with children who bring us new challenges. We find the best way for each child to learn and develop, using a range of approaches that we have assessed and tested so that we can be confident of their effectiveness.

We work closely with our families and our communities, and together we prepare our students to take their full place in society. Above all, we believe that our students deserve the very best.

Our school's mission is to live and work together, to share opportunities for learning in an environment that is innovative, well-resourced and offers high-quality teaching and care.

Key facts about Radlett Lodge School:

- Ofsted Good, January 2020
- early years, primary, secondary and post-16
- ages 4 to 19
- girls and boys
- 43 day places
- 12 weekly or termly residential places
- flexi-boarding in term time and holidays for pupils attending the school
- on-site psychologists, speech and language and occupational therapists
- typical staff to pupil's ratio is 1:2
- teaching and caring for children with autism since 1974
- children from over 20 local authorities
- Autism Accreditation accredited service.



Understanding
my autism is part
of **MyProgress**®

How we help your child

Our approach to assessment, recording and reporting

MyProgress® is The National Autistic Society's overall strategy for working with your child. With **MyProgress®**, your child will have the best start in life because every aspect of their care and education is tailor-made for them. **MyProgress®** guarantees that your child will use approaches that The National Autistic Society has tried and tested over many years: we know that they make a difference.

Warmth and professionalism

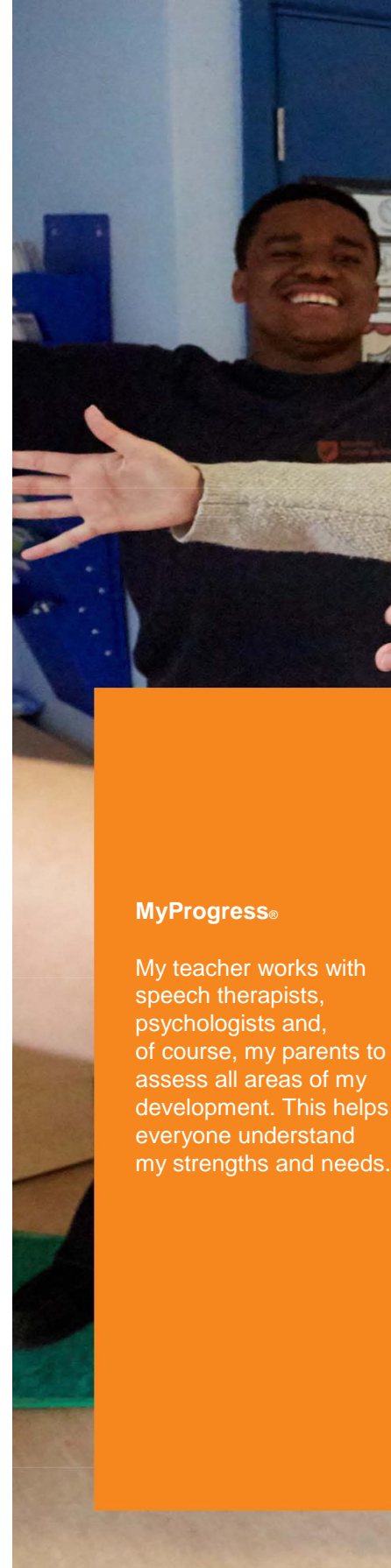
The atmosphere in our school is a unique blend of warmth and professionalism. We nurture every child as an individual, and are imaginative and caring in everything we do. At the same time we are rigorous and systematic in our approach so that we know your child is always developing to the best of their ability.

No two children are alike, so we plan your child's education and support individually. Our expertise means that whatever challenges your child faces, we can help. We are patient, too: if, for example, it takes eighteen months for your child to feel comfortable walking into school in the morning, that's fine. We'll support your child every step of the way, and never rush them.

We look to the future

We want our children to be included in society so we've made links with schools, organisations and businesses and spend as much time in the community as possible. Your child will visit places of interest, join classes and activities in other schools or colleges, practise their daily living skills in town, and simply enjoy themselves doing their favourite things.

An important outcome of **MyProgress®** is ensuring that your child is ready to move on to the next stage in their life. We work closely with you, your child and our transition co-ordinator to create a **My Transitions Passport**. This document describes your child's skills, interests, aspirations and other key information to provide a clear plan for his or her future and lifelong learning.



MyProgress®

My teacher works with speech therapists, psychologists and, of course, my parents to assess all areas of my development. This helps everyone understand my strengths and needs.



Every term

My ability profile demonstrates the unique way autism impacts on me and my learning style.

MyProgress® meeting identifies what my school and my family can do to build on my strengths and interests and support me in the things I find difficult.

MyProgress® plans set out my academic, social and independence targets and says how the curriculum and timetable are going to be tailored to meet my needs.

MyProgress® curriculum puts significant emphasis on social communication skills, community-based learning and enterprise. The curriculum is delivered using the NAS SPELL philosophy that includes a blend of autism-specific interventions.

MyProgress® file provides evidence of my achievements across academic (eg literacy), social (eg turn-taking), emotional (eg managing my emotions), and independence (eg caring for myself) aspects of learning.

MyProgress® report measures how I am doing against my targets by rating progress red, amber or green. My achievements in green are celebrated and my teacher develops an action plan to help me improve in those areas rated red.

We're a team



“Before my son came to this school he wasn’t speaking and didn’t communicate. Now he has friends and communicates with adults and children. I’m really pleased that he has built friendships.”

Parent

Many skills, one team

Every member of our staff team is highly qualified in working with children with autism. Your child will learn with the help of highly-trained teachers, our senior educational psychologist, our behaviour coordinators, our speech and language therapists, and our occupational therapists.

Our teaching staff and support and advice team work side by side every day. We work as a team with your child in class, in the playgrounds, in the dining hall, in the corridors, in our residential service: in fact, everywhere your child goes.

We get to know your child well, to learn about their autism, and to help them build their communication, social and behavioural skills. As a team, we share our knowledge, ideas and observations, so that whatever is happening in your child’s life, we are here to support them, with a complete range of specialist skills.

We always keep you up to date, and your child’s teacher will email or post you a home-school diary each week that outlines what has been happening in class and tells you about your child’s activities and successes.

Our in-school support and advice team:

- psychologists
- behaviour coordinators
- speech and language therapists
- occupational therapists.

The Centre for Autism

In addition to our own staff’s expertise, we draw on the specialist knowledge of The National Autistic Society’s Centre for Autism. The Centre gathers and shares research evidence about autism and is an extremely valuable resource as we develop our programmes and extend our work.

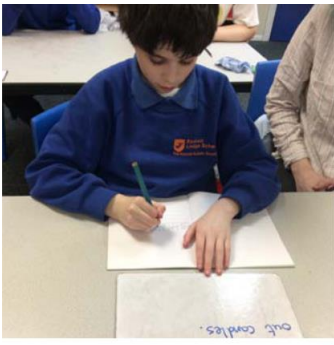
“We create speech and language support plans that are tailor-made for each pupil, using evidence-based approaches and engaging, fun activities. This year, our pupils have particularly enjoyed our attention building sessions and our weekly lego club.”

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Striving to make
every day
positive is part
of **MyProgress**.[®]

Growing in
confidence and
independence
is part of
MyProgress®

Ambitious, individual learning



“The minute I walked in I thought, this is where my daughter fits in. There’s been a huge change in her over two years. I’d love her to stay until she’s 19.”

Parent

Our curriculum

At Radlett Lodge School we offer early years, primary, secondary and post-16 education following the principles of **MyProgress®**. At every stage we design your child’s curriculum individually around their needs, interests and skills. All our pupils follow a personalised curriculum, with a strong emphasis on communication and social skills in all lessons.

Our post-16 provision is also completely personalised. Our person-centred planning approach enables you and your child to plan their post-16 education so that it provides exactly what they need to prepare for adult life.

The shape of our day

Our day is highly structured, so at every point your child knows where they have to be, what they are doing, how much they have to do, when they will have finished, and what they will do next.

Your child has their own visual timetable, so that they can see the shape of their day, and every task or activity they do will be clearly structured and explained.

Our consistent, planned approach creates a calm and reassuring atmosphere where children feel safe and enjoy learning.

Our learning and living environment



“I love going on the community visits and I have some good friends in post-16.”

Student in post-16

“My son is so happy to attend school every day and has become so much more open to other people since starting.”

Parent

A school designed for autism

Our school is purpose-built for children with autism. It is the ideal place for your child to learn, be supported and feel safe. Our primary, secondary and post-16 departments are on one site, as is The Lodge, so everyone here feels part of a close-knit school community. The departments are clearly separated within the school, however, so that children of the same age learn and play together in a suitable environment.

We are in a semi-rural area, two miles from Radlett town centre and the nearest shops and transport. Your child will spend plenty of time out and about, in Radlett and beyond. Being part of our community is extremely important to us.

Residential care

We offer residential places in the Lodge, our modern, purpose-built home in the school grounds. Places are weekly or termly for 38 or 43 weeks a year.

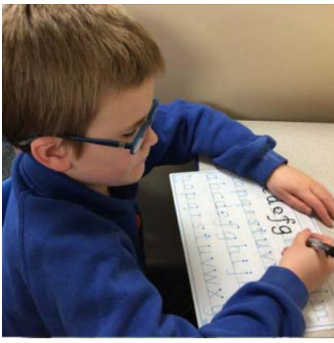
Your child will have their own cosy bedroom, which they can personalise, and they will share a bathroom with one or two other children. It is their home away from home, and we make it warm and welcoming with lots of time for play and leisure.

The Lodge is a positive, caring environment where your child can develop and become more independent. We use the same approaches in the Lodge as in the school, and your child will move seamlessly between the two, building their social and life skills every day. We always welcome visits from family, and keep you up to date with everything that's happening in your child's life.

Learning,
socialising, and
communicating
at school is part of
MyProgress®

Building trusting,
long-term
relationships is part
of **MyProgress**®

Our rigorous approach



“I like being a young campaigner because it teaches me more, I can now talk very well and it helps me change things for the better.”

Student

“You can do a lot more work here than home schooling. My mum found it hard to find the right school for me. I liked this school when I came.”

Student

Ofsted says we are “good”

In January 2020 Ofsted said that Radlett Lodge School is Ofsted Good. Ofsted said “The curriculum is well designed to help pupils learn new knowledge in small steps and to manage their behaviour and learning well. Teachers plan work that closely matches pupils’ needs.”

Systematic and thorough

We never assume we are doing our best. We tailor every child’s learning to their needs, and with **MyProgress®**, we will assess your child regularly, plan the approaches and strategies that will work best for them, deliver them and monitor your child’s progress. We are systematic and thorough, and above all, we work with you and your child to create the best education for them as an individual.

Sound evidence

We base all our work on sound research and evidence, and it is important to us that we play our part in building knowledge about autism. We are involved in university-led research projects and collaborations with partners, exploring new ways of working that will help our children. Please contact us to find out more.

“Pupils experience an environment that helps them stay calm and focused. Staff are diligent in helping pupils learn simple behaviour rules, which helps pupils to get enjoyment from learning”

Ofsted, January 2020

Supporting families and young people



Flexi-boarding

We run a flexi-boarding service for pupils enrolled at our school during selected school holidays. Part of our residential provision, children are supported in an environment they are familiar with and by our own staff, which is perfect for children with autism.

Giving you and your child a holiday or some time out of your daily routine, a flexi-boarding stay may be for the day, overnight or for a week, depending on what you and your child need. They are fun, with lots of activities, and are designed to build your child's skills and independence.

Visit www.radlettlodgeschool.org.uk to find out more.

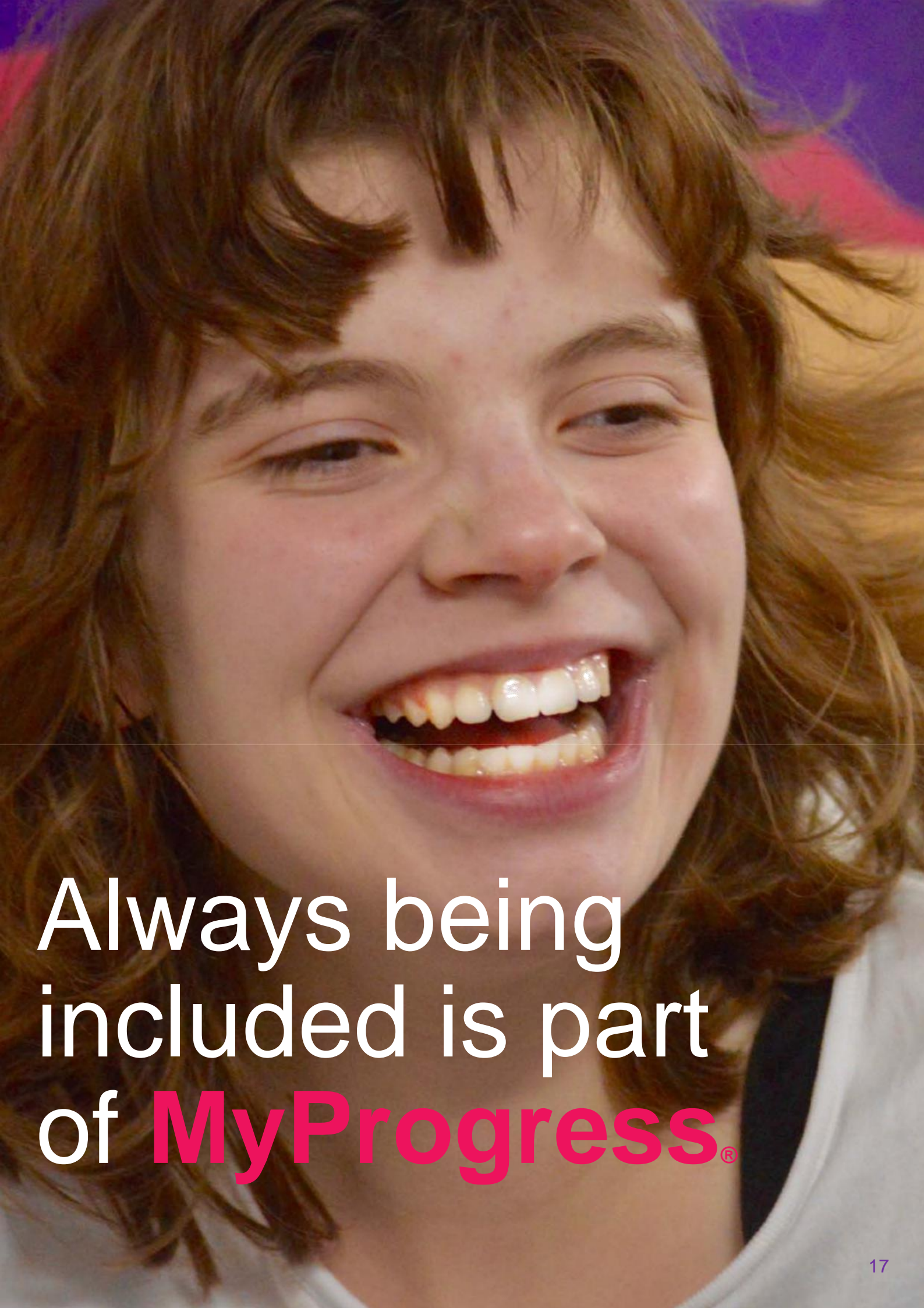
“It is important for us that flexi-boarding at Radlett isn't just enjoyable but meaningful for the children and young people who stay.”

Family support

We like to work closely with all our families, and you will always be welcome to ring us or come into school to talk to us. We can give you support and training with areas like behaviour management, toileting, communication and social understanding, and on any area your child is working on, so that you can continue our approaches at home.

“My teenage son has been having flexi-boarding breaks at Radlett Lodge for a number of years and it is definitely a home from home. He has got to know individual staff and other residents and talks about them on his iPad communication app. Knowing he is safe and happy is a huge bonus, allowing me to spend time with his siblings without worry.”

Parent



Always being
included is part
of **MyProgress**®

Applying to Radlett Lodge



“Our son seems much happier and more confident since being at Radlett Lodge. We have noticed this and other members of our family have also commented on this.”

Parent

Find out more about us

We offer education to young people aged 4-to-19 with autism who have been referred by their local authority. If you think our school might be the right place for your child to learn, please contact us to find out more about what we provide.

Making an application

If you decide you would like to apply, you need to discuss your child's needs with your local authority. Once you have made your application, we will assess your child.

There are several steps to the application process. We can explain them to you and there is a chart showing the process on our website – www.radlettlodgeschool.org.uk.

Our unique expertise in delivering a meaningful education to young people on the autism spectrum comes from over 50 years of hands-on experience working with our students. We support each person to fulfil their potential no matter the level of ability or the complexity of their needs. No one understands autism better.

We have a pioneering, innovative and flexible approach to education, and the strategies and techniques we've developed are widely recognised in the UK and Europe. When delivered by our highly trained and committed staff and tailored to each person's needs, they can transform a young person's life.

The National Autistic Society
393 City Road
London EC1V 1NG
Switchboard: 020 7833 2299
Email: nas@nas.org.uk
www.autism.org.uk

You can get help from the following telephone services:

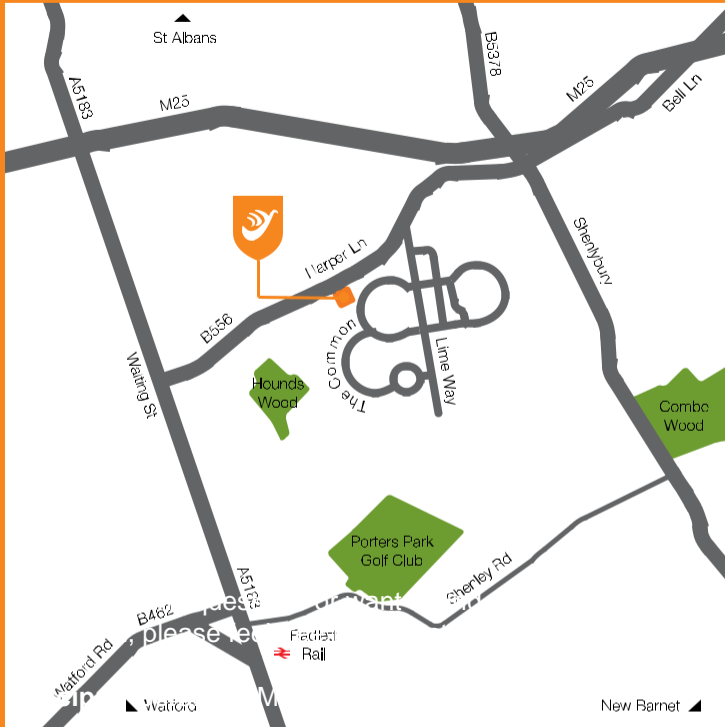
Autism Helpline: 0808 800 4104

Education Rights Service:
0808 800 4102
(leave a message)

Parent to Parent Service:
0808 800 4106
(leave a message)



Radlett Lodge School



Radlett Lodge School

Harper Lane
Radlett
Herts WD7 9HW

T: 01923 854922 (school)

T: 01923 854960 (residential)

E: radlett.lodge@nas.org.uk

W: www.radlettlodgeschool.org.uk

For more information about all our schools,
please get in touch:

T: 0117 974 8430

E: schools@nas.org.uk

W: www.autism.org.uk/schools

The National
Autistic Society



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE