



Underley Garden

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Welcome to

Underley Garden



Thank you for your interest in Underley Garden, I'm Ann the Principal here and I lead an amazing team of highly skilled and dedicated staff, who make Underley Garden a real home from home for all the children and young people we look after.

As you'll see, we are well equipped with a fantastic rural site, complete with vast opportunities for outdoor learning in a safe environment, sensory spaces, indoor and outdoor play equipment, onsite 5 years plus School, Secondary School and Post 16 College. We also have beautiful bungalows which are very personalised and have a family feel.

Many of the children we care for have very complex needs and our coordinated team of professionals including carers, teachers,

psychologists, psychiatrists, therapists and nursing staff are on hand to support every step of a young person's journey with us. Every child is different, and the care and education provided for each young person is different. One of our most important techniques is the innovative approach to personalised plans and targets. Every few weeks all professionals working with the young person meet to review progress, plan next steps and set targets. Because these are shared across a 24 hour curriculum with everyone working towards the shared goals, the progress often exceeds even our highest expectations.

We have so much to offer here at Underley Garden and would welcome the opportunity to show you round and find out how we can best support your son or daughter.

We look forward to meeting you soon,

Ann Henderson
Principal,
Underley Garden

"I share with three other girls and I have a bedroom that's my own and my own en suite bathroom. We all go out together with the staff. I love some of the trips we go on: they're fun and exciting."

Fiona - Student



"He's like a different child since he has been here. It all happened in a very short space of time. His attendance record has improved because Niall wants to go to school now."

Niall's Mum

"The reason that Underley Garden works so well for these children is because they have such a large professional team with excellent specialists on board such as the educational psychologist who has been brilliant with Mark."

Mark's Mum



Hello, my name is Chris and I lead the care team. I have several years of first-hand experience in supporting children with a range of complex needs, having worked as a care worker, senior and deputy manager before taking over as Registered Manager in October 2016. I strongly believe in having a pro-active, hands on approach to leading our team of carers. I work alongside a dedicated team who all have the same ethos as myself and we push each other to achieve the best at all times for the young people in our care.

My commitment to the children and staff in my care is evidenced by the outstanding outcomes for our young people and the career paths of our care team. We never give up on our children, and together with Ann and my other colleagues, I make sure that the team have the right skills and resources to care confidently.

Chris Kirkbride
*Registered Manager,
Underley Garden*





MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY



A beautiful and safe location

Our location, on a private estate close to the Lake District, offers personal space to safely explore & enjoy the beautiful environment as well as wonderful opportunities to join local community activities such as our recent success as winners of Cumbria in Bloom.

A real home from home

Our spacious homes support the individual needs of our children and provide the space and comfort they need. The homes are beautifully decorated with spacious living, kitchen and dining areas and set within garden and outdoor play areas. Every resident has their own en-suite bedroom that can be modified to their own personal needs. Our children get involved in every aspect of family life, from decorating their bedrooms, to helping with the cooking, where it's appropriate, and even organising social activities.

For children with communication needs, the homes are equipped with signs using the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and all our rooms are on the ground floor for those who struggle to use stairs. We plan regular activities both on and off site to help children develop their interests, broaden their experiences and replicate normal family life.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY



School Life

Our school caters for children with a whole range of capabilities. Classes are small and cultivate a nurturing environment where children not only learn academic skills, but are also supported in their emotional and social development. We follow the National Curriculum from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4 and enter pupils for GCSE examinations where appropriate. We also create a personalised curriculum, working with our psychologist and

specialist teachers for those children who require a different style of learning or outcomes. Alongside the academic and functional curriculum we provide an outdoor and vocational programme to ensure all needs and interests are nurtured. Our aim is to ensure children are confident when they leave education and have the life and employability skills needed to navigate the world around them.

Adult Services

Underley Garden Adult Services opened in 2012 as a residential provision for adults aged 18 - 25 with an autistic spectrum condition associated social communication difficulties and complex needs. The emphasis at Underley Garden Adult Services is a journey; developing and maintaining independence skills, supporting community inclusion and gaining life skills whilst recognising individual strengths and celebrating successes. Our aim is to further develop the independence of our residents through an environment that is nurturing, secure and consistent. We place emphasis on positive relationships between

residents and staff so that each resident is highly involved with their person centred plan and has a firm circle of support to succeed. Our second phase of adult provision opened in 2015, at Grange View in Grange over Sands. Young people who have been nurtured in the provision on the Underley Garden site can progress to Grange View and take more control of their own environment and activity, developing their independence further. Our aim is always to make the pathway to further independence beyond Underley Garden a smooth one, as this is how we measure our success.





MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY



Focused on children's individual needs

Above all else, it's vital that our children and young people feel safe and happy here at Underley Garden. We spend time getting to know the children and their families before they join us, so we can help them settle in as smoothly as possible. We are ambitious for our children and our experienced team build detailed and focused care plans for every child based on their individual social, emotional, educational and physical needs. It's amazing to see children's characters and individuality develop with the right support and provision.

Integrating into our wider community

Underley Garden is a wonderful community within itself, but we also recognise the importance of helping our children to integrate within wider society. Our residents are valued members of the local village Kirkby Lonsdale; they love visiting the village shop, meeting other residents and getting involved in local clubs and activities. Further afield, our young people enjoy activities such as snooker, swimming, working out at the gym, cinema, sensory centre, bowling and trampolining. We are based in the wonderful Lake District and make use of the many outdoor facilities and places which are on our doorstep.

Preparing young people for the future

Whilst we really do help children get the most out of every day they are with us, we also prepare them for whatever the future holds, be it living in shared, independent or assisted accommodation or returning to be with their family. Our team will work with the young people to prepare them emotionally and provide them with the relevant skills, so they can transition confidently to the next stage of their life.



If you visit Underley Garden you may well see...

Fiona

"The staff at Underley are just extraordinary people, they really get to know the children and care about them." Fiona's Mum



She is now getting a social life that she couldn't have had elsewhere. I think the social progress has been even more important for Fiona than trying to catch up academically

Diploma Progress Graph



Niall

"He's come on in leaps and bounds at Underley: it's the best thing ever. I'm really proud of him." Niall's Mum



I absolutely love gardening because I like watching things grow.

Core Subject Progress Graph



I really like it here. I have made lots of friends and I enjoy it.

James

"His social worker had never seen him smile until he went to Underley Garden. It's just been fantastic for him." James' Mum



It doesn't feel like school because it feels just like fun.

Core Subject Progress Graph



I really like this school. I have made new friends here.



Involving families every step

Our carers take on many parental responsibilities, but we recognise that there is no substitute for a child's real family. We encourage regular contact between a child and their family, keep parents informed about their child's well-being and development and of course, families are always very welcome at Underley Garden.

Our key workers and carers

It's important that our children and young people develop strong and trusting relationships with those caring for them, which is why each child has a key worker and a small team of carers to encourage and nurture them. Each family home has two teams of carers who share the responsibility for supporting children in that house. The team will be there when the children get up in the morning, they'll help them get ready for the day, supported by teaching assistants from school to ease the transition from home to school positively. They'll also pick them up from school, support them in activities, prepare their meals

and put them to bed. In many respects, carers will take on the parental responsibilities of helping children to make healthy choices, setting and enforcing the appropriate boundaries and monitoring their development. They also help children and young people through times of sadness or disappointment, celebrate their successes and simply have fun together. Depending on the needs of the children, some carers will sleep overnight in the home and others will stay awake and check on children throughout the night.

Continuity of care

Continuity of care is so important at Underley Garden and we are fortunate to have teachers, nurses and carers working together onsite to help our children flourish. The teaching staff who support children during the day give a detailed handover to our carers, so their education can be supported with activities at home. In addition, our

wider team of speech and occupational therapists, LD Nurses, psychotherapists and psychiatrists are on hand to support children with very specific areas of their development as needed. Everything is clearly documented and discussed with the child's family and our team are always available to speak to parents in person.



FAQS

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What is our age range at Underley Garden?

We support children from 5-19 years.

We support adults from 19 - 25 years.

How many weeks a year can children stay for?

38 and 52 week residential placements are available. We also provide day placements for children and young people who live within travelling distance.

What special needs do children at Underley Garden have?

We support children who have a primary diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. All the children at Underley Garden have difficulties with social communication, social imagination, and have restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests or activities. Many of our children have complex learning difficulties and other sensory and medical needs, often associated with their ASD.

How far do children travel to attend?

Children at Underley Garden come from across the UK.

What extra support is provided?

Our multi-disciplinary team consists of 2 Learning Disability Nurses, 2 speech and language therapists, 2 occupational therapists, 2 health care assistants, 2 psychologists and a consultant clinical psychiatrist.

What facilities are available onsite?

Underley Garden is set within a private estate of tranquil countryside containing individual bungalows - housing two or three residents, a specialist primary school, secondary school and 6th form college. We have a sensory garden, outdoor play equipment, vegetable allotment, sports hall, and quiet and sensory rooms.

How to get in touch

If you are interested in visiting Underley Garden,
or finding out more about the support we provide,
please call **01524 271 569** or
e-mail info@underleygarden.org

ACORN
Better days, Better lives

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