



Context

Laurus Grace will be an Alternative Provision 11-16 Free School offering specialist provision for students with Social, Emotional, Emotion and/or Mental Health (SEMH) needs as well as young people with Communication and/or Interaction needs. When fully occupied it will provide a high-quality education for 80 students.

We will build upon the outstanding provision within Laurus Trust mainstream secondary schools, to develop a high quality and ambitious curriculum for our students that aligns with our Trust Vision.

We believe that students who have experienced setbacks within mainstream education deserve the same educational offer as their peers. This will be realised within a specialist provision through two curriculum strands:

Academic Curriculum

Outstanding teachers and support staff will offer an ambitious core and optional academic curriculum including GCSE and BTEC qualifications.

Restorative Curriculum

Specialist and pastoral staff will offer a therapeutic-style curriculum offer to develop social and emotional aspects of learning and promote positive mental health

Our vision is for students to achieve academic success and be able to move successfully to their next phase of education, training, or employment. At the same time our approach will support the development of SEMH needs to allow students to become well-rounded individuals with transferable interpersonal skills.

Vision and Ethos

Laurus Grace has been designed to meet the needs of a broad range of SEMH needs aligning with a hope that students can attend a school in their locality, regardless of their needs.

The school will fully align with the Laurus Trust vision:

‘For everyone, regardless of background or circumstance, to be inspired, to thrive in all environments, to recognise what it takes to succeed, to set aspirational goals and work hard to achieve them.’

The key belief of Laurus is that the all-round educational attainment of individual students is substantially promoted by their participation in a whole range of activities, not just classroom based academic ones. Within our ‘specialist offer’, the wider focus is on personal development, emotional regulation, and communication skills to inspire students towards self-improvement.

We wish to achieve self-worth for every child by being unashamedly academic, unapologetically aspirational and by having uncompromising standards.

- *Uncompromising standards* - Constantly strive for excellence in every domain in every aspect of what we do.
- *Unapologetically aspirational* - Culture as strategy. A focus on a school culture of universally high expectations.
- *Unashamedly academic: A focus on developing Powerful Knowledge with emphasis on student/pupil attainment.* Prominence placed on staff Professional Learning and Development. We will develop and grow our own.

Many of the students who will attend Laurus Grace will have a broad range of SEMH needs potentially influenced by early childhood development and relational trauma. Some may have special educational needs that have not been previously recognised. All are likely to have experienced challenges and perceived failure within the mainstream school environment. As

such we will take an innovative approach to promoting engagement with learning and positive behaviour management.

Admission to the school will be via a referral from their existing school made via the Stockport Secondary Panel for Inclusion (SPI) where the panel will decide the appropriateness of a placement at Laurus Grace. All Key Stage 3 placements will be dualled rolled with their current school.



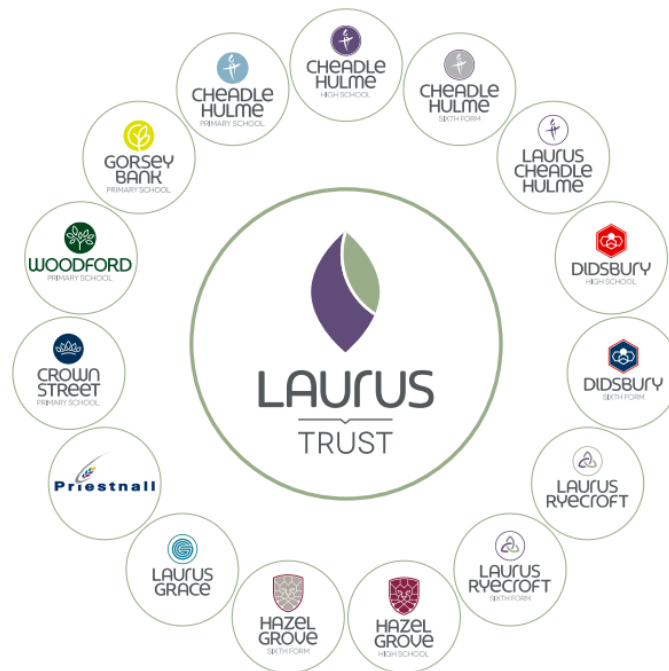
The Laurus Trust

The Laurus Trust is a multi-academy trust with Cheadle Hulme High School (“CHHS”), the founder school, and Gorsey Bank Primary School at its centre. CHHS is a hugely oversubscribed academy converter and has been judged Outstanding in every category by Ofsted in 2011 and 2015. Gorsey Bank was judged Outstanding in every category by Ofsted in 2023.

The trust has opened five new free schools to date, all of which are oversubscribed.

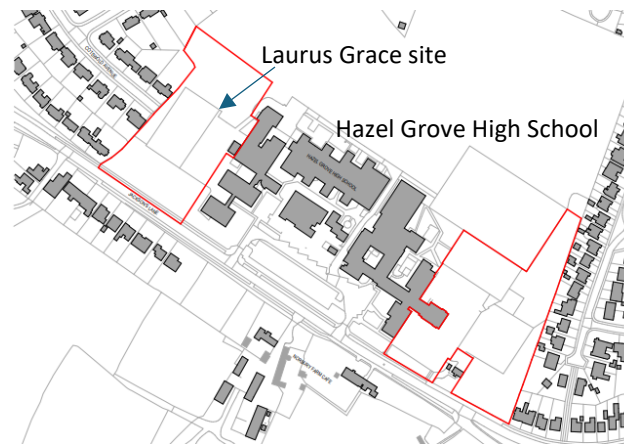
School	Local Authority	Year Opened	Ofsted Rating
Laurus Cheadle Hulme	Stockport	2018	Outstanding (2023)
Laurus Ryecroft	Tameside	2018	Outstanding (2023)
Cheadle Hulme Primary School	Stockport	2018	Good (2023)
Didsbury High School	Manchester	2019	Outstanding (2024)
Woodford Primary School	Stockport	2022	Not yet inspected

We are delighted to have been selected by the Department for Education to operate a new Alternative Provision Free School, Laurus Grace in Stockport.



Site Proposal for Laurus Grace

The site for Laurus Grace is on Jackson's Lane, Hazel Grove and is adjacent to Hazel Grove High School. Planning permission for the school was granted in the Summer of 2023 taking into account feedback during the planning application consultation. Building work is due to begin in 2024/25.



The building will be a new-build construction and will therefore be designed specifically to meet the needs of the students and staff. It will have separate teaching areas for the different phases and additionally contain an array of ancillary teaching and administration rooms plus facilities for dining, play, communal occupation and outdoor spaces.

Specialist rooms / areas include:

- Science lab
- Technology/engineering suite
- Dining and Life Skills social spaces
- SEN classrooms
- Grass 5-a-side football area
- Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
- Sports Hall
- Fitness Suite