



At Honywood School we have an enhanced provision (AEP) for 15 pupils. The AEP supports autistic pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan (where the primary need is Autism) in accessing mainstream school.

### **What is the Autism Enhanced Provision (AEP)**

Some mainstream schools across Essex have extra support available for pupils with special needs and disabilities. These are called 'Enhanced Provisions'. These are not the same as special schools: Enhanced Provisions provide a safe space for pupils to overcome their barriers to learning within a mainstream school. The dedicated AEP teams support pupils to build their attendance in mainstream lessons over time. When in the AEP, pupils can access their work and complete timetabled interventions that meet their specific needs. Across Essex, there are four primary Autism Support Centres and four secondary Autism Support Centres.

To have a placement in one of the Autism Support Centres, including here at Honywood School, a child must have:

- a diagnosis of autism
- a finalised Education Health and Care Plan for children or young people with autism as the primary need
- The cognitive ability to access the mainstream academic curriculum with appropriate support from the autism support centre to overcome their barriers to learning.

Places within the AEP's are requested via the annual review process. All requests are carefully considered by the Essex Autism Panel.

The purpose of the AEP is to ensure that the pupils attending the Hub make progress as detailed within their Education Health and Care Plan. The AEP provides enhanced support using evidence-based strategies, to enable the pupil to spend increasing amounts of time accessing the classroom and engaging with their peers in a mainstream setting.

Please note that pupils who are currently educated within Honywood School's mainstream setting must follow the same process, to ensure equity for all students in the county.