



Education  
Care &  
Support

FALKLAND  
HOUSE SCHOOL **fhs**

A warm welcome to Falkland House School and Falkland House School Perth, part of Options Autism from all the staff, children and young people.

This prospectus provides information about each campus and the different services we offer. You will also find our contact details if you are interested in exploring a place for your child or young person.

## Introduction

We are committed to working with parents, carers, partner organisations and Local Authorities to provide the best support possible to meet the individual needs of our children and young people. We are one of Scotland's leading providers of education for children and young people with additional support needs such as Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), Emotional and Mental Health diagnosis, ADHD and Tourette's Syndrome, as well as several other conditions.

Our original campus in Fife was established for boys and is set in a stunning building with calming surroundings. Fife offers education and care from early primary age to 18. We consistently receive very positive

inspection reports from all partner agencies we work with. In our most recent Autism Accreditation, inspectors commented that:

**“Outcomes for young people are outstanding at Falkland House School”.**

Following increased requests for support, we opened a second campus in Perth in early 2023. Our new campus allows us to provide the same high level of support and positive outcomes for girls as well as boys. Providing access to a full curriculum, Falkland House School Perth can enrol girls and boys from 12 to 18. We can also provide post-school support in developing independence and transitioning to further education or employment at Am Bruach, a continuing care service situated within the Perth campus grounds. This support is available to our young people until they are 23.

We hope you enjoy reading about our school and look forward to hearing from you.

**Patrick Gannon**  
Head of Service,  
Falkland House School



# Our aim

“We give our young people the skills, confidence, and resilience needed to meet the world.”

At Falkland House School, we provide a holistic, person-centred approach to the development of children and young people to ensure they all achieve the best possible outcomes. Offering day, 39-week & 52-week placements, we provide comprehensive packages of education, care, support to develop independence, and access to clinical services for children and young people with a range of additional support needs, primarily autism.

## What we do

Using a holistic, person-centred approach to support the development of our children and young people, and through engagement with our wider group and partners, we seek to use effective evidenced-based approaches in all areas of our work.

All our children and young people have experienced significant barriers to learning for a wide range of reasons, and many have had prolonged periods of interrupted learning. Additionally, many have also struggled with making and maintaining friendships becoming withdrawn from previous areas of interest, and family. We support children who can access the National Curriculum (Curriculum for Excellence) but who are unable to do this in a mainstream

environment. Our role is to help all our community to achieve their full potential, working towards transitions that reflect their interests, aspirations and ability.

“Care and education staff work closely to create a shared approach to care and achievement... including individually tailored education plans that increase confidence and encourage young people to attend school regularly where they had previously struggled”.

Care Inspectorate



## Curriculum

“There is a highly inclusive and child-centred ethos and culture embedded in the schools’ practice... with the school supporting learners very well to eradicate their anxieties and re-engage successfully with education”.

Pupils on both campuses follow the Curriculum for Excellence which enables each young person to be a successful and confident individual, while at the same time balancing academic progress with the development of social, communication and life skills. Complementing the curriculum, we provide young people with an extensive independence development programme which encourages and allows young people to progress to positive and sustained destinations.

When a student starts at Falkland House School, they meet their Key Teacher who is responsible for working with them to plan and guide their progress, liaising with parents and professionals. Each new student is supported in managing the routine of the school and getting to know their new peer group. We produce initial assessments that look at literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing as well as an assessment of the social skills



of the pupils. These assessments are compiled and shared with everyone in the school along with appropriate strategies to support the students’ progress toward their agreed outcomes.

**Appropriate and accessible formative assessments are undertaken. Each student then helps to plan their Learning Journey document which contains targets, evidence of learning and outcomes as well as personal achievements. This document is used to track and share educational progress and is used in parallel with a SHANARRI plan which guides support for wider achievement and wellbeing.**

We have an interdisciplinary approach to learning across the school and we work with a topic that inspires and motivates and cover many curriculum subjects within that theme. We will work as a whole class on the same theme - although there will be differentiation through specific tasks or expectations - ensuring every young person feels included and appropriately challenged.

We have an active and experiential approach to learning and highly value celebrating personal achievement. This is visually obvious in the classrooms with wall displays celebrating the success of our pupils, motivating them to succeed and giving them ownership of their own learning environment.

Our classrooms and learning spaces consider all the sensory needs of our young people.

In all subjects and at all stages, a very practical, project-focused curriculum is employed to ensure continued high levels of engagement and motivation. All teachers teach in context, using a thematic approach which creates tangible life examples of the subject content being taught.

Moving into the senior phase, all Students are successfully achieving SQA awards. Students achieve qualifications in a broad range of subjects from National 3 to Advanced Highers. This includes English, Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, History, Music, IT and Admin, Leadership and more. Additionally, our successful school-college partnership programme has enabled several young people to achieve National Certificates at Levels 5 and 6 in subject areas such as Computing, Business, Tourism & Hospitality and Sport & Fitness.

Our classrooms and learning spaces consider all the sensory needs of our young people. Teachers work with our integrated Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists to ensure we create the best possible environments with all resources necessary to allow our students to get the most benefit from their time with us.

Outdoor learning plays a big part in the life of Falkland House Schools, with young people supported in a range of outdoor activities that help to develop their self-confidence and social skills as well as physical wellbeing. Students benefit from the stunning scenery of the Falkland Estate and the terrain of Kinnoull Hill, which provide the backdrop to our forest school, kayaking, rock climbing, hiking and other activities.

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## Clinical provision

Falkland House Schools have a dedicated, on-site clinical team that works with both our education and care teams and directly with children and young people to create an environment that removes barriers to learning and enables children and young people to thrive. Our clinical team are strongly embedded in the service, working closely with the young people delivering 1:1 sessions within social communication classes and supporting the delivery of an interoception curriculum.

### All children joining Falkland House School join our clinical pathway.

This begins with initial checklists completed by our clinical team – and where possible, parents – in Speech & Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy, in addition to a checklist for the young person's presentation. These simple checklists are evaluated and summarised for the clinical team and overseen by our Clinical and Wellbeing Lead.

Our clinical pathway then includes an initial 12-week period of observation, and together with any additional assessments, input from family, key staff, and relevant professionals, forms the basis of an initial clinical plan.

The levels of support required for each young person are determined by the clinical team during this period of assessment, and we regularly review our therapeutic support, with amendments made for any emerging areas of need. This is documented and shared during regular progress review meetings.

**Following their assessment, the following levels of clinical provision are then available to young people:**

#### Universal:

Clinicians support staff to create a positive environment for learning and living

#### Enhanced:

Support and strategies are provided to education and care staff to carry out directly with the young person and are reviewed by the clinical team as and when needed

#### Specialist:

Specialist assessment to be carried out and/or direct 1:1 input provided regularly by a clinician

# Our sites

## Fife

Set in the beautiful, rural surroundings of the Falkland Estate, we have a well-established reputation for excellence in the quality of our service provision and for achieving positive educational and socially inclusive outcomes. We support our young people to be happy and fulfilled through involvement in a variety of rewarding learning experiences. Our core values created and agreed upon by our whole school community are Respect, Kindness, Positivity, Aspiration and Resilience.

Accommodation is within the school building spread across three separate houses. There is access to a range of recreational rooms including a games room, table tennis room, cinema room, kitchen, sports hall and pool room. Young people have their meals together and there is a strong emphasis on healthy eating and positive social mealtimes.

The beautiful surroundings of the Falkland Estate enable our young people to participate in several outdoor learning opportunities including the John Muir Award and Duke of Edinburgh Award, in addition to obtaining qualifications such as the SQA Leadership Award. We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities that support social interaction, mental and physical wellbeing and independence. Our day students have the opportunity to be included in these extra-curricular activities, and our residential students can access resources and activities in the local community.



We were very proud that Falkland House Schol Fife was the first educational establishment of its type to be awarded 'Excellent' grades by the Care Inspectorate in every statement we were inspected in, and moving to the new inspection model we continue to achieve very positive gradings. Additionally, we are accredited every three years by the National Autistic Society in autism good practice, an accreditation we are pleased to have held since 2012.





## Perth

Falkland House School Perth specialises in the education and care of girls and boys age 12+ with a range of factors contributing to a need for additional support. Having acquired the site in December 2021, the school and accommodation underwent a significant refurbishment in 2022 to provide a modern and fresh learning and living environment for our young people. This included the installation of modern technology in all our classrooms and the installation of ensuite bedrooms in our accommodation. We have commissioned the installation of a new immersion room, with this facility incorporating the very latest virtual and immersive technology which will allow all students to experience a range of settings including travel, social and employment spaces virtually in preparation for the real thing.

Our school environment is designed to support young people who have sensory issues by providing a low-sensory environment that is conducive to learning. Our classrooms are designed to accommodate a maximum of 6 young people, giving our teaching staff the time to build positive relationships with pupils and re-engage them in education.



Many of our young people arrive at the school having experienced a disrupted education and struggling with their wellbeing and interpersonal relationships. Our inclusive approach enables our young people to settle into the school quickly, building positive relationships with peers and staff alike.

With a strong focus on developing skills for life, pupils at Falkland House School Perth benefit from working with our Throughcare & Engagement Coordinator. This work focuses on transitions from school into the community and adult life. This can include support with college and university applications and experiences, preparing young people for work with interview practice and volunteering opportunities.

## Am Bruach

Am Bruach offers accommodation for five young adults in a transition-focused person-centred provision within the grounds of Falkland House School Perth. The service is situated just a few minutes walk from Perth city centre with access to everything required to promote independence in a staged way, but also enjoys the amenity of a sought-after residential area with instant access to Kinnoull Hill.

Specialising in providing care to young adults aged 16 to 23 years old, the service was developed to support our obligations in allowing continuing care. AM Bruach work specifically to offer high levels of support while young people transition from school to Further Education or employment. The accommodation is split across the site between a self-contained annexe for two young adults and a house for three young adults.

Am Bruach offers an alternative to mainstream care placements where our young adults are supported by an experienced and dynamic residential care team, as well as an on-site Throughcare and Engagement Coordinator, and Speech and Language Therapist and Occupational Therapist.



The Care team support our young adults in their placements and provide consistent, therapeutic care required for them to enhance their social skills, integrate into the community, progress in further education, learn/increase their independence skills, gain employment, and access all benefits that they are entitled to.

We provide our young adults with all the important life skills they need to be able to live as fulfilled and independent a life as possible. Practical skills for use in everyday life are taught within a patient, understanding and homely environment, with young people able to access support when they need it.



## Practice worth sharing more widely

“Young people’s success in sustaining placements in higher education, modern apprenticeships or employment when they leave school. This is supported by the high quality approaches in place to build young people’s skills for learning, life and work.”

Education Scotland, HMle



## Careers

In preparation for the transition to life beyond Falkland House School, the school operates a very comprehensive Pathways Assessment and Planning process.

The components of the plan related to Further Education, Training or Employment are coordinated by the dedicated Through Care Coordinator. The process begins in S3 with initial contact from Skills Development Scotland and using a variety of activities including My World of Work, pupils explore options for post-school transitions. They gain insight into their strengths, interests and aptitudes which will lead to opportunities for both learning and employment.

With the support of the team around the child, the coordinator works with pupils to identify and access college and work experience placements which are experienced in S4 and then extended and built on during S5 and S6. Initially, these placements are organised in the locality of the school to allow high levels of support. As progress is made, access to college and work placements in the pupil’s home area is created to further support the development of a positive sustained destination for each pupil.

We are extremely proud of the outcomes our young people achieve. Over the past few years, our young people have achieved exceptional academic and social outcomes, including employment, modern apprenticeships, and Further and Higher Education. We maintain contact with young people for 12 months after they leave Falkland House School, ensuring they are fully supported into the next phase of their life



## Parents & Families

We understand that many of our young people and their families have had a difficult time with education before joining Falkland House School, and therefore place a lot of importance on communication with our families. Each young person's Key Worker communicates with families weekly to ensure a joined-up approach to their care and education, with key teachers also communicating regularly. Furthermore, our families can use an

SDS package to access support over weekends and school holidays. We can, where needed, undertake outreach work which involves Key Workers visiting young people and their families at home during school holidays to support access to community activities. This has proven highly successful over the last few years with families telling us that communication and support from the school has been both helpful and regular.

“Meetings with the school are so different from other schools...they take the time to get to know each and every child and it's the pupil's own personal goals and aspirations that they support.”

Parent of a young person at Falkland House School, 2022

## Admissions

We're happy to consider admission requests directly from parents, carers, and Local Authorities. We cater for as many circumstances as possible and support children from across Scotland and the rest of the UK.

We offer day, 39-week, and 52-week residential placements, with fees usually paid by Local Authorities.

If you'd like to make a referral, would like to visit the school, or simply want to find out more information about our services, please get in touch. You can contact the school on:

**01738 336091 (Perth)**

**01337 857268 (Fife)**

Alternatively, for more information, you can contact our Admissions Manager by email at:

[iain.owens@ofgl.co.uk](mailto:iain.owens@ofgl.co.uk)



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