



Radlett
Lodge School

Welcome to my
school. Welcome
to **MyProgress**[®]



The National
Autistic Society

The National
Radlett Lodge School



Enjoying my
school is part of
MyProgress®



Jo Galloway, Principal



**Dr Jacqui Ashton Smith,
Executive Director of Education**

Welcome to Radlett Lodge School

Radlett Lodge School is a warm and welcoming school for children with autism, and we work hard to make sure that the children in our care have the best education, the best opportunities, and the best start in life.

Our staff are committed to the pursuit of excellence and I see this commitment every day. I see students' joy when they discover that they can do something they thought they couldn't. I see their excitement, sense of achievement and personal growth. I see the genuine pride our staff take in their students. I see the delight that parents take in the development of their children and the difference it makes to their families.

We are all different, we all have needs. Children with autism have special needs and require individual care and attention to ensure that their needs are well met. At Radlett Lodge School we know how to identify these needs. We know how to build relationships with families and carers. We know how to support you. We know the positive difference this support can make and the positive impact it can have for the future. There is no template for educating children with autism: every child is different and we recognise this difference and capitalise on it.

Please do come and visit us to see the school in action, meet our staff and our students, and talk to us. I am constantly impressed with our school, the work we do, and the results we achieve. I'm confident that you will be too.

Jo Galloway
Principal

Dr Jacqui Ashton Smith
Executive Director of Education



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.”

Libby Carpus, 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 Outstanding, March 2014
- Autism Accreditation accredited service
- early years, primary, secondary and post-16
- ages 4 to 19
- girls and boys
- 55 day places
- 14 weekly or termly residential places
- flexi-boarding in term time, weekends and holidays
- on-site psychologists, speech and language and occupational therapists
- typical staff to student ratio is 1:2
- teaching and caring for children with autism since 1974
- children from 25 referring local authorities.



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.

A close-up, side-profile photograph of a young boy with short brown hair and glasses, looking down at a tablet device. He is wearing a white t-shirt with a green and blue pattern. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom setting with colorful objects.

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



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 clinical psychologist, our behaviour co-ordinators, our speech and language therapists, and our occupational therapist.

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:

- senior clinical psychologist
- three behaviour co-ordinators
- speech and language therapist and assistant
- occupational therapist.

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 don't take children out of class to do speech and language – we make it happen constantly in classrooms, modelling to staff how to use an approach. Everything we do has a purpose in communication. I train staff to embed it in every activity, as naturalistically as possible.”

Rachael Lee, Speech and Language Therapist

“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



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



Growing in
confidence and
independence
is part of
MyProgress®

Ambitious, individual learning



“I love Radlett - I even love maths!”

Ahmed, Year 9 pupil

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

Mandeep, Simran’s mother

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 differentiated National Curriculum, with a strong emphasis on communication and PSHCE in all lessons. From age 4 to age 16, we teach all subjects including literacy, numeracy, science, history, geography, ICT, RE, PE, and a range of arts-related subjects.

Our curriculum is extremely flexible. Your child will learn at a level and pace to suit them, and they will be in class alongside pupils of similar abilities. Our pupils take qualifications at a range of levels, from pre-entry level to GCSEs. Some children take courses in local schools, such as ICT, Science or Design and Technology.

Our post-16 unit is 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 timetable, so that they can see the shape of their day, and every task or activity they do will be clearly structured and explained. Your child stays with the same group and teacher through the day.

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

Our learning and living environment



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 our residential 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.

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

Holly, a student in post-16

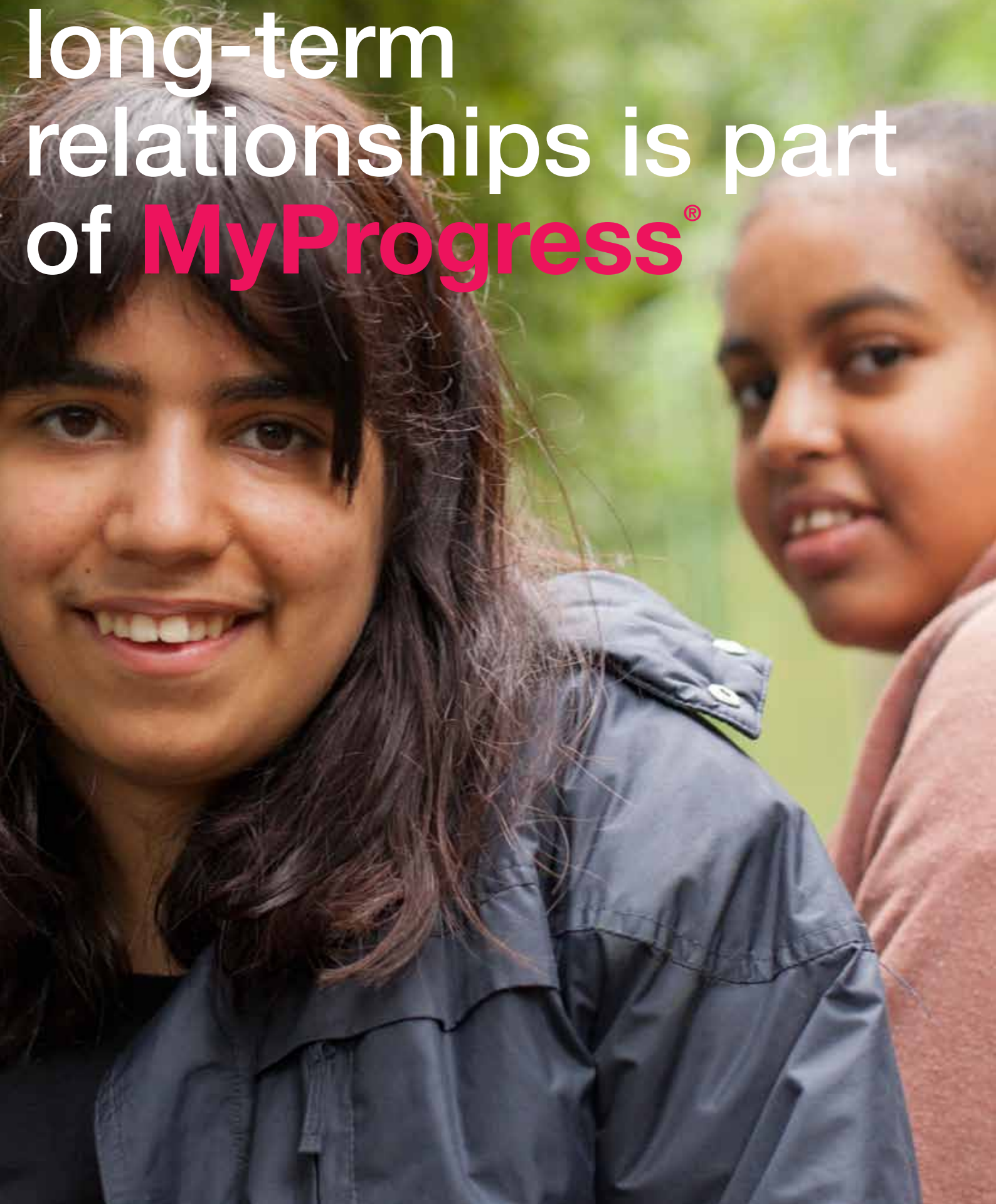
“My son is so happy to attend school every day and has become so much more open to other people since starting.”

Parent



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.”

Jonathan, Apollo class 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.”

Ciaran, Apollo class student

Ofsted says we are “outstanding”

In March 2013 Ofsted said that Radlett Lodge School is Ofsted Outstanding in all areas of education and care. They found that our pupils make excellent progress both academically and in their communication and social skills. They highlighted the exceptional way that our residential and school staff work so closely together. We are enormously proud of this, and we always seek to push ourselves even further.

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 make excellent progress during their time at the school because of school and residential staff’s exceptional understanding of how best to support their learning and personal development...”

Ofsted, March 2013

Supporting families and young people



“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

Flexi-boarding

We run a flexi-boarding service for pupils enrolled at our school during selected school holidays and weekends. 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.”

Laura Smart, Flexi-boarding Manager

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.

Outreach and inclusion

We offer support to young people who are learning in mainstream settings in our area. We not only support the young person themselves, but also provide support and training to their teachers.



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

Applying to Radlett Lodge



“Our daughter 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.

We run regular parents' mornings during term time for parents of children with autism interested in looking round the school and hearing about what we do. To book a place, please contact the school.

Making an application

If you decide you would like to apply, you need to discuss your child's needs with your local authority, and make a joint application. 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**.

The National Autistic Society is the UK's leading charity for people affected by autism.

We were founded in 1962 by a group of parents who were passionate about ensuring a better future for their children. Today, our UK-wide network of specialist schools and education services gives hundreds of children and young people the opportunity to grow and learn in a reassuring environment, with teachers and support staff who understand their needs.

For over 50 years, we've built our success on the principle that every child that passes through our doors is unique. Each student has their own support programme based around their needs and ambitions. Together with them and their families, we're building the better future that our founders hoped for.

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

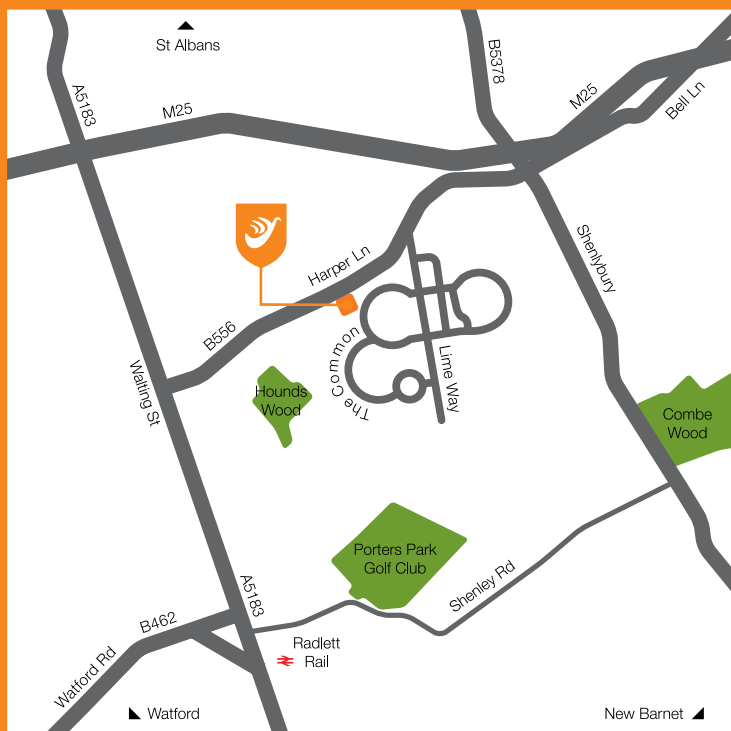
Education Rights Service:
0808 800 4102
(leave a message)

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





Radlett Lodge School



If you have any questions or want to find out more about our school, please feel free to contact us.

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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



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**