



Sybil Elgar  
School

Welcome to my  
school. Welcome  
to **MyProgress**<sup>®</sup>



The National  
Autistic Society



Enjoying my  
school is part of  
**MyProgress<sup>®</sup>**





**Chloe Phillips, Principal**



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

# Welcome to Sybil Elgar School

It is with pleasure that I welcome you and your child to our progressive, caring school. We offer early years, primary, secondary and further education, both residential and day, to young people with autism.

When your child comes to Sybil Elgar they become a member of our family-friendly community. We look after your child with as much care and understanding as you would at home, because we put the needs and welfare of our children above everything else.

Your child will be offered consistent and reliable support. We know that this will enable them to learn to the very best of their abilities. Our school is highly structured, and we pride ourselves on the warm, welcoming place we have created where children feel valued and safe. We provide differentiated access to the Early Years and National Curriculum, and to our very successful creative arts curriculum.

At Sybil Elgar we are always looking for innovative ways to inspire your child and to address their specific learning requirements. We aim to provide your child with the confidence and skills they need to find enjoyment and fulfillment in what they do. We constantly strive to help them achieve their full potential, ready for adult life.

Please come and visit us, see our facilities and meet our team. We look forward to seeing you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chloe".

**Chloe Phillips  
Principal**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacqui Ashton Smith".

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

# We're autism specialists



“Thanks is not enough,  
when someone cares  
the way you care.”

Parent

“I like music. My first  
time we did African  
drums. It's exciting to  
come here...”

Sixth Form student

## Finding the right way forward

Every child at Sybil Elgar has a diagnosis of autism. Our team of autism qualified and experienced staff has a wealth of practical experience to offer families who are seeking to find the right way forward for their child.

Learning at Sybil Elgar will be quite unlike learning anywhere else. Our approach to teaching children with autism is both creative and grounded in solid research. We support our students in every aspect of their school life, building confidence, social, behavioural and communication skills and giving them the resources they need to develop and prepare for adult life.

Your child will follow a personalised curriculum, and have access to an amazing range of performing arts. We know from research that when children enjoy dance, music and drama they learn better. Education at Sybil Elgar is education for life.

## Key facts about Sybil Elgar

- Autism Accreditation accredited service
- Early years, primary and secondary education, ages 5 to 16 in Southall
- Sixth form and further education, ages 16 to 19 in Acton
- Girls and boys
- 100 day places
- 25 term-time weekly residential places, ages 10 to 19
- Short breaks in evenings, weekends and school holidays
- One-to-one support offered
- On-site psychologist, speech and language therapist and occupational therapist
- Average staff to student ratio: 2:5
- Strong creative and expressive arts curriculum
- Teaching and caring for children with autism since 1965



Understanding  
my autism  
is part of  
**MyProgress<sup>®</sup>**



## 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.

### An enriched curriculum for everyone

What makes Sybil Elgar special? We find ways to allow your child to learn, in whatever way they feel comfortable.

Everything we do is centred on your child. We make sure that our curriculum meets their specific needs and our multi-disciplinary team will closely support their learning in communication, social, behavioural, emotional, sensory, physical and self-help skills. At our school, your child will learn to develop a sense of self-worth and self-respect. We cater for a wide range of talents and abilities and are dedicated to helping every child along every step of the way.

### The performing arts

In addition to our specially adapted academic curriculum, your child will find new opportunities and enjoyment throughout their time at school by learning to express themselves through music, dance and art.

We offer an extensive performing arts curriculum at our main school and in our sixth form and further education department to help our young people achieve and find fulfilment, from taking part in a music and movement display to playing the drums with the school band.

### We look to the future

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.



## 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

## Autism specialists to the core

Every single member of our staff team is trained in autism, so your child will always be among people who understand autism and the challenges your child faces. We even train our bus drivers, because every moment of your child's day counts.

Our teachers and support and advice team are all highly qualified and experienced, with a deep commitment to educating children with autism.

## Teaching, care and support united

Wherever your child is with us, in class, learning essential life skills, or out in the community and our team provides them with consistent support, working closely together at all times.

Our therapists are all based in school, and are an integral part of the team. They work with our residential pupils too, so you can be sure that throughout every day your child is with people who know them well and understand how to teach and support them effectively. We monitor and assess your child constantly and because teachers, therapists and care staff work side by side we can adjust the teaching and support your child needs quickly and effectively in every aspect of their school life.

## Our in-school support and advice team

- Educational psychologist
- Behaviour co-ordinators
- Speech and language therapist
- 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.

"I'll often hear a child say something in passing and think, 'Oh! They used a whole sentence, I'll make a note of that.' We know the children so well."

Speech and Language Therapist



"He wakes up happy and smiling every morning."

Parent

"I love yoga, trampoline, aerobics and dancing and outings!"

Pupil



Striving to  
make every day  
positive is part  
of **MyProgress**<sup>®</sup>



Growing in  
confidence and  
independence  
is part of  
**MyProgress<sup>®</sup>**







“I love my art lessons.  
I am learning to wait  
more patiently and  
get less excited with  
loud noise.”

Pupil

“It’s a really nice place!  
Give it a go!”

Sixth Form student

# A dynamic, complete approach to learning

## Putting your child first

We are always developing our curriculum so that it meets the specific needs of children with a diagnosis of autism. The most important things we teach are self-confidence, empowerment, problem solving, working together, self-esteem and valuing others. Your child’s individual needs, skills and interests are always of primary importance when we plan their lessons.

We are constantly aware of how your child’s autism affects their learning and experience of the world around them and we know that developing their communication, social and life skills will enable them to learn better.

## Our curriculum

The academic curriculum includes English, mathematics, science, design and technology, ICT, art and design, music, PE, RE and food technology. We have daily personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) and sex and relationship education. Key stage 4 children follow the ASDAN Transition Challenge, and gain at least two units. In our sixth form, every young person gains social and vocational skills and qualifications.

## Homework

Where appropriate students are set homework. We encourage you to share and contribute towards your child’s home learning and we are available to support you in this.

## Being part of the community

At Sybil Elgar, we encourage your child to take part in life outside the school gates. Your child will spend time in our vibrant London community, practising their daily living skills and enjoying themselves with friends.

We have strong links with the college and business community in Acton and our sixth form students benefit enormously from work experience in Acton Market, with businesses on the high street or with local horticultural enterprises.

“We try to work around the interests of the youngsters so we’re not bound by the curriculum – we can go outside the box.”

Peter Danco, Manager of Sixth Form and Further Education

# Our autism-friendly facilities

## A great place to learn

Our early years, primary and secondary site in Southall is light, modern and welcoming. It has newly refurbished, autism-friendly classrooms and teaching areas, a multi-sensory room, music therapy room, food technology teaching kitchen and student-run café.

Our post-16 department is on the campus of Acton College and offers a catering-standard teaching kitchen, together with a cafeteria and dining room specially designed by our young people. There is a sensory room, music centre, student common room and a modern performance space equipped with our inspiring interactive 3D floor projector.

We are also developing a business enterprise facility where students can learn about the office environment and develop their entrepreneurial skills.

## Residential care at Sybil Elgar

We offer weekly term-time residential places in our residential house, Corfton Road. It is on a quiet, leafy residential road in Ealing, four miles from our school. Here our experienced team continue to support your child using exactly the same programmes and approaches as the staff at school.

At Corfton Road your child will have their own bedroom as well as access to a large, friendly kitchen, lounge and secure garden.

There are lots of different evening activities for your child to choose from every day, both at home and in the community. We are close to Hanger Hill Park and have excellent public transport links so we like to get out and about as much as possible,

We put a firm emphasis on all our children learning life skills. Your child will help with making their own bed, washing their own clothes in the machine, clearing tables to help the support staff and cooking their own meals. Living at Corfton Road is a great way to become more independent.

We are also looking to develop a small 52-week residential facility for early 2015.

“Residential students learn exceptionally good life and social skills, which significantly increase their self-esteem and confidence.”

Ofsted, November 2011

“The residential element of the school is outstanding.”

Ofsted, November 2011



“Being at the residential home has helped his motivation to be independent. He looks forward to going and does very well.”

Parent





Learning, socialising,  
and communicating  
at school is part of  
**MyProgress<sup>®</sup>**

Building trusting,  
long-term  
relationships is part  
of **MyProgress<sup>®</sup>**





# Informed and professional



“I think Sybil Elgar school is cool because it helps people that have autism. We can learn a lot. We have fun days out, trips with our friends – the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum.”

Sixth Form student

## Our unique nurturing environment

In our most recent Ofsted report, in November 2011, the inspectors say that our environment ‘is highly structured and predictable. It is calm and uncluttered. Expectations are clear. This approach means that students who have significant and complex needs perceive the school as a safe place to learn.’

We offer a special combination of warmth and deeply informed expertise, and we look at every one of our students as an individual. Ofsted highlighted this, saying that our students ‘thrive within a nurturing environment which centres on their uniqueness.’

No matter what challenges your child faces, we have decades of experience that we can draw on to help them through.

## Our rigorous approach

Every child at Sybil Elgar has their own, individual programme, which we regularly update. With **MyProgress®**, you can be sure that we are constantly monitoring and assessing your child to analyse their progress. We check that the approaches we are using with your child are the right ones for this stage of their development. Because our teaching, care and support staff work so closely together, we are quick to pick up problems and to decide how to respond.

## Sound evidence

We never stop trying to find new and better ways to help our children and families. Our educational strategies are based on university-led research. For example, our psychologist worked with the Institute of Education to study how taking part in music and drama helps children with autism to enjoy learning and interacting with others.

# Supporting families and young people



“They can help you with your autism, and help you and give your parents a break, and give you skills so when you go out into the world you’re ready and it gives you a boost.”

Sixth Form student

“She is fantastic since she has been at the school! So contented and happy. She has settled and is really enjoying it.”

Parent

## Family support

It is important to us to offer lots of practical support to parents. For instance, we have set up Parenting Partnership workshops to discuss a wide range of your concerns. We go out on home visits, perhaps to prepare your child’s programme or to explain how to implement interventions at home.

## Short breaks, activity weeks and our after school club

Taking a short break in our Ealing house is a good opportunity for your child to have a holiday and try some of the many activities we run while you take a well-earned rest. They are both fun, and designed to help your child develop important skills and to become more independent. They are run by our own staff, so your child will always be with people who have a thorough understanding of autism. We run our short breaks overnight or during weekends in term time.

Our summer activity weeks take place during the school holidays. We offer a wide range of trips and activities, as well as time to relax and to learn new skills. Like our short breaks, they are staffed by our own, trained team.

We also offer an after school club. We provide tea and activities, with your child joining in with our residential students.





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

# Applying to Sybil Elgar



## Find out more about us

We offer education to young people aged 5 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, we suggest you contact us to find out more about what we provide.

All of our policies and procedures can be found on our website or by contacting the school. This includes information about safeguarding, comments and complaints.

## 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.sybilelgarschool.org.uk](http://www.sybilelgarschool.org.uk).

“A school that looks good, has fine facilities and offers excellent care, understanding and education, centred round a core of communication and connectivity with people who understand the world of autism.”

Good Schools Guide, 2013

“We’d like to say thanks to you and everyone involved... and share with you our satisfaction on seeing how happy he is about his school.”

Parents



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](mailto:nas@nas.org.uk)  
[www.autism.org.uk](http://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)



# Sybil Elgar 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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For more information about all our schools please get in touch:

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The National  
Autistic Society



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE