Pollyteach
engaged to learn

Part of the Portland Charity Group



PROSPECTUS 2027

A safe and happy independent school,
based in the heart of Sherwood Forest.

www.pollyteach.com

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



Hello and a very warm welcome to Pollyteach.

It is a privilege to lead our dedicated school, where every child is supported to grow in confidence, independence, and self-belief. Our ethos, 'Engaged to Learn', underpins everything we do and reflects our belief in the power of meaningful engagement.

From the moment your child steps through our doors, they will find a supportive and understanding environment where they can grow, discover their strengths, and achieve their potential. Our curriculum is carefully designed to meet each student's unique needs, offering a range of engaging activities and accredited qualifications, including GCSEs and functional skills. We place a strong emphasis on personal development and well-being, because we know that success is about much more than academics.

I am proud to be part of a passionate team committed to meeting each student's individual needs. Together, we work closely with families to ensure every child feels valued, supported, and prepared for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Pollyteach. I look forward to welcoming you and your family.

Warm regards,

Ellie Wood
Headteacher, Pollyteach

OUR CAMPUS

Portland College, Nottingham Road, Mansfield, NG18 4TJ

OFSTED

We are proud to share that Pollyteach has been graded by Ofsted as meeting all Expected Standards under their new inspection framework, with all Independent School Standards and safeguarding requirements met.

Inspectors highlighted our caring and inclusive environment, strong relationships, personalised support and focus on preparing students for adulthood.

POLLYTEACH • PROSPECTUS 2027

A DIFFERENT KIND OF SCHOOL

Supporting students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and neurodiversity.

Pollyteach is a welcoming independent school supporting a maximum of 50 students each year, aged 8-16, with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and neurodiversity, including those who have found mainstream education challenging.

We provide full-time, person-centred programmes with flexible timetables where needed, offering GCSEs and supported work placements.

Students also benefit from therapeutic and mental health support, a Forest School and a range of enrichment activities across our Sherwood Forest site. We also offer short and long-term Alternative Provision opportunities.

Preparing students for life beyond Pollyteach is central to our work, with 100% of Year 11 students who undertook GCSEs, achieving a grade and progressing to positive post-16 destinations in 2025/26, which include going on to do A-levels, BTEC courses and more.

Reach out to **referrals@pollyteach.com** if you want to consider us for alternative provision.

WHY CHOOSE US?

A school built around the individual.

At Pollyteach, students are happy, safe, and fully engaged in their learning, with personalised programmes developed in partnership with families and other professionals.

Our sensory-rich campus is designed to help students feel relaxed and able to be themselves, with small classes, sensory rooms, a classroom dog, comfortable breakout spaces, and no uniform requirement. Students can also learn through practical activities in our Forest School and benefit from specialist therapy and well-being support.

As part of the Portland Charity Group, our students can also enjoy the facilities on the Portland College campus, such as the Woodland Adventure Zone, the multi-use games area (MUGA), Portland Farm and its donkeys, and Newstart Theatre, plus much more. Together, these create a positive environment where students want to be, leading to strong attendance and positive outcomes.



> **"The school provides a welcoming, calm and comfortable learning environment for all pupils. Pupils quickly come to believe that they are an integral part of the school's positive, caring and inclusive community.**
>
> Ofsted



TYPICAL DAY

No two days are exactly the same.

Every student has different needs, interests and goals, so their timetable is designed to provide the right balance of learning, support, practical experiences and opportunities to develop independence.

School runs Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 2.30pm.

A typical day might look like this:

• 9.00am - 9.30am	Arrival & Breakfast
• 9.30am - 10.00am	PSHE/Talking Wall
• 10.00am - 10.40am	Session 1
• 10.40am - 10.55am	Break
• 10.55am - 11.35am	Session 2
• 11.35am - 11.45am	Break
• 11.45am - 12.05pm	Tutor Time Guided Reading Wider Curriculum
• 12.05pm - 12.45pm	Lunch
• 12.45pm - 1.25pm	Session 3
• 1.25pm - 2.20pm	Session 4
• 2.20pm - 2.30pm	Recognition

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Building skills for life beyond school.

We want every student to leave Pollyteach with the confidence, independence and skills they need for life beyond school. Through practical learning, work placements, volunteering and everyday opportunities, students gain valuable experience for their future. While there is no required number of hours, students receive a certificate once they have completed six days of volunteering or work experience.

Supported Work Placements.

We support students' learning and well-being through Supported Work Placements. These give students the chance to gain real work experience in a safe, supportive environment, developing skills, confidence, and independence while completing meaningful tasks. Our past placements have included Seesaw Nursery and Portland College Farm, among others, and we work with each student to find an opportunity that best suits their interests and goals.

Volunteering Opportunities.

We also encourage students through Supported Volunteering, giving them the chance to take part in meaningful roles with guidance from trained staff, helping them build confidence, practical skills, and contribute positively to their community. Our past volunteering has included Coppice Lodge Care Home and the food banks in Kirkby and Annesley.

FOREST SCHOOL

Our campus is set within 32 acres of beautiful woodland in the heart of Sherwood Forest, giving students the opportunity to take their learning outdoors as part of their school day.

Our Forest School can form part of a student's personalised curriculum or be offered as a standalone experience for schools and groups. Through practical, hands-on activities, students develop confidence, independence, social skills and well-being while learning in the woodland.

Forest School sessions take place on campus and are embedded into the school timetable, allowing students to move easily between classroom and outdoor learning.

Activities include:

- Carving and Tool Crafting
- Fire Crafting and Campfire Cooking
- Animal Tracking
- Orienteering and Scavenger Hunts
- Den Building
- Basket Making
- Forest Art
- Tarps and Knots



Sessions are designed to meet individual needs and are delivered in groups of up to 8 students, alongside accompanying staff. Working in small groups allows students to develop communication, teamwork and independence while receiving the support they need.

All students complete a mandatory Tool Talk and Safe Forest School Practice during their first week. Sessions are led by two qualified staff, supporting students to learn safely and take considered risks.

Students can also access Portland's Woodland Adventure Zone, which includes the fully accessible climbing wall, sensory trail, bike trail, zip line and bushcraft area.

A typical day might look like this:

• 9.00am - 9.30am	Arrival & Breakfast
• 9.30am - 10.00am	Intervention & Talking Wall
• 10.00am - 10.40am	Forest School
• 10.40am - 10.55am	Break
• 10.55am - 11.35am	Forest School
• 11.35am - 11.45am	Break
• 11.45am - 12.05pm	Wider Curriculum with Tutor
• 12.05pm - 12.45pm	Lunch
• 12.45pm - 1.25pm	English
• 1.25pm - 2.20pm	Preparing for Adulthood/ 5 Steps to Well-being
• 2.20pm - 2.30pm	Recognition

SPECIALIST SUPPORT - UNDERSTANDING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

SENDCo Support.

Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. Our SEMH and well-being programmes help students reflect, self-regulate, and build positive relationships, supporting both personal growth and academic success. By celebrating diversity and promoting equity, we nurture a community where differences are embraced and every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Through personalised programmes, adaptive teaching, and multi-sensory strategies, we ensure learning is accessible and tailored to each student.

Interventions & Well-being.

We provide targeted support to develop literacy, numeracy, and spelling skills, including Precision Teaching, Alphabet Arc, SENDsational Spelling, and IDL Literacy and Numeracy. Our SEMH and well-being programmes help students build resilience, self-regulation, and positive relationships, supporting both personal growth and academic success.



VOICES FROM OUR COMMUNITY

Hear from the people who know us best...



> **I have a hard time trusting any kind of education after how I've been treated in the past, Pollyteach helps me so much and gives me what I need.**

Student Voice

> **Pollyteach is amazing, it was the best thing for my daughter she is doing really well and has gained all her confidence back, the staff are lovely and keep you up to date with everything.**

Parent/Carer Voice

> **It has been so rewarding to watch students grow in confidence and thrive. From students who initially struggled to walk through the door, to seeing them arrive each day with a smile, their journeys have been incredibly special to witness. Most importantly, seeing students develop a sense of belonging and feel safe, valued and accepted makes the work so meaningful.**

Staff Voice

APPLICATION PROCESS

1 EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST

- **If your child is not currently in school,** contact your Local Authority.
- **If your child is currently in school,** speak to your child's school.

2 REFERRAL FORM

- Your Local Authority or child's school submits a referral form on your behalf.

3 ASSESSMENT

- We review the referral to make sure we can meet your child's needs and provide the right support.

4 VISIT POLLYTEACH

- You and your child will have the opportunity to visit Pollyteach, see the environment and meet the team.

5 PLACEMENT OFFER

- Following your visit, if Pollyteach is determined as a suitable placement, a placement offer with details will be sent to the relevant professionals and communication to families will follow.

6 TRANSITION INTO POLLYTEACH

- An allocated member of Pollyteach staff will contact the family ahead of their Pollyteach start date to introduce themselves and support their transition.

If you have any questions, or would like guidance with the application process, please contact us at **office@pollyteach.com**





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GET IN TOUCH

Call: **01623 494312** Email: **office@pollyteach.com**
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Portland College, Nottingham Road, Mansfield, NG18 4TJ

@Pollyteach @pollyteach_school1

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