



### **Neurodiversity Statement**

***“When a flower doesn’t bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower.” – Alexander Den Heijer***

Oaks Rise has been created to provide an environment in which neurodivergent children can learn and develop without prejudice. We believe that all children have a right to be educated in a manner that recognises and celebrates individuality and differences. We refute the idea that neurodivergence is an ‘illness’ or ‘disorder’ and strongly reject the aim to ‘fix’ or ‘cure’ a neurodivergent individual. As such, we take a strengths based approach to supporting members of our community and enable their learning by focusing on their passions and interests.

We respectfully request that all people associated with Oaks Rise show regard for our values and act in accordance with our values and beliefs. Whilst on site and interacting with other parents and students, we respectfully request that you do not share controversial views and respect our position, as most students have come to us because they are looking for a safe and understanding environment, where they can be their true neurodivergent selves and learn to work with their brains in order to thrive, instead of constantly battling to be something that they are not.

If you feel your own values and beliefs do not align with the Oaks Rise position on neurodivergence then we ask that you carefully consider whether we are the right provision for your family.

However, if you hold different beliefs but feel you can abide by this policy when you are at Oaks Rise, then we are very open to working with your child or young person. The child or young person is at the centre of everything that we do.