



Parent: _____

“All you ever want in life is for your child to be happy, and North East Autism Society has done that for us.”

north east
autism society

Mackenzie Thorpe Centre

Prospectus



Welcome to the Mackenzie Thorpe Centre

"I take great pride in introducing you to our school, which offers a highly-personalised approach to learning for pupils aged between four and 19, who are autistic, neurodivergent or have additional needs.

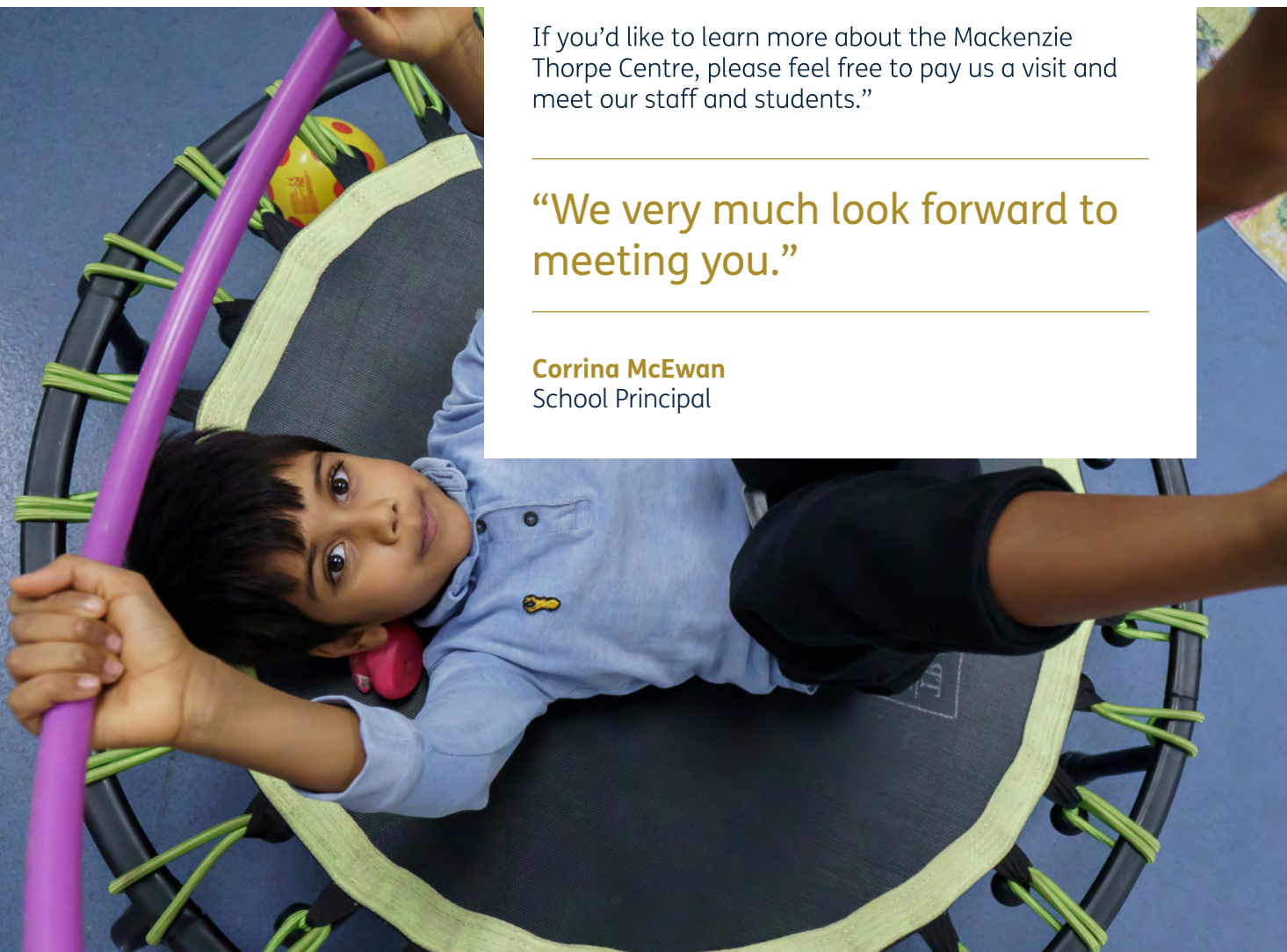
At Mackenzie Thorpe Centre, we take immense pride in the progress and development of all of our pupils, no matter their starting point or planned destination, and place them at the heart of everything we do.

Our enthusiastic and professional staff team are committed to making learning fun, engaging and relevant, taking into account pupils' individual needs, interests and abilities in order to help them fulfil their potential.

If you'd like to learn more about the Mackenzie Thorpe Centre, please feel free to pay us a visit and meet our staff and students."

"We very much look forward to meeting you."

Corrina McEwan
School Principal



Our Mission

'Working together to inspire, support, celebrate and equip autistic and neurodivergent people to fulfil their potential in life.'

Our Core Values

To help us achieve our mission statement we have four core values underpinning our practice:

- To have our pupils and those accessing our services at the heart of the organisation
- To operate a fair, respectful and honest culture
- To strive for the highest quality
- To operate with integrity



The Curriculum

At Mackenzie Thorpe Centre, we are committed to helping our pupils fulfil their potential by preparing them for the next stage in their education, employment and lives.

Our ambitious curriculum is divided into four learning pathways with each pupil matched to the route that is best suited to their assessed needs and individual aspirations.

Our curriculum is designed to:

- Develop skills and knowledge in line with pupils' planned destinations
- Promote communication and community engagement
- Empower pupils to have greater independence
- Increase self-confidence and resilience
- Equip pupils to be responsible, respectful and active citizens
- Develop skills to enhance employment opportunities
- Develop transferable functional skills
- Support pupils to develop strategies to regulate their own well-being

We use a range of specialist strategies to support our pupils:

- Total communication approach
- Individualised Support Plans
- Bespoke learning environments
- Hierarchy of Cues
- Zones of Regulation
- Visual support systems
- Sensory profile
- Staff with specialist training
- A range of differentiated teaching and learning strategies
- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Staff are extensively trained in Positive Proactive Support



EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)

- Communication and language development
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



Educational Pathway

- English
- Mathematics
- ICT
- Science
- Education/Employment
- Independent Living
- Community Inclusion
- Health and Well-being



Communication and Sensory

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Communication
- Personal, social & emotional development
- Independent Living
- Community Inclusion
- Health and Well-being



Pathway to Continuing Education and/or employment

- Functional Skills English
- Functional Skills Maths
- Functional Skills ICT
- Independent Living
- Community Inclusion
- Health and Well-being



Pathway to Independent Living

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Independent Living
- Community Inclusion
- Health and Well-being
- Personal, social & emotional development



Post-16 Pathway to Continuing Education / Employment

- English
- Maths
- ICT
- PSHE
- Education/ Employment
- Independent Living
- Community Inclusion
- Health and Well-being



Parent: _____

“From the minute he started at the Mackenzie Thorpe Centre he loved it. I think it’s because the people there listened to him and were accepting of what he wanted. They let him have control and freedom.”

Our Admissions

Mackenzie Thorpe Centre accepts referrals from Local Authorities (LA) and the majority of our pupils have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Special Educational Needs support plan.

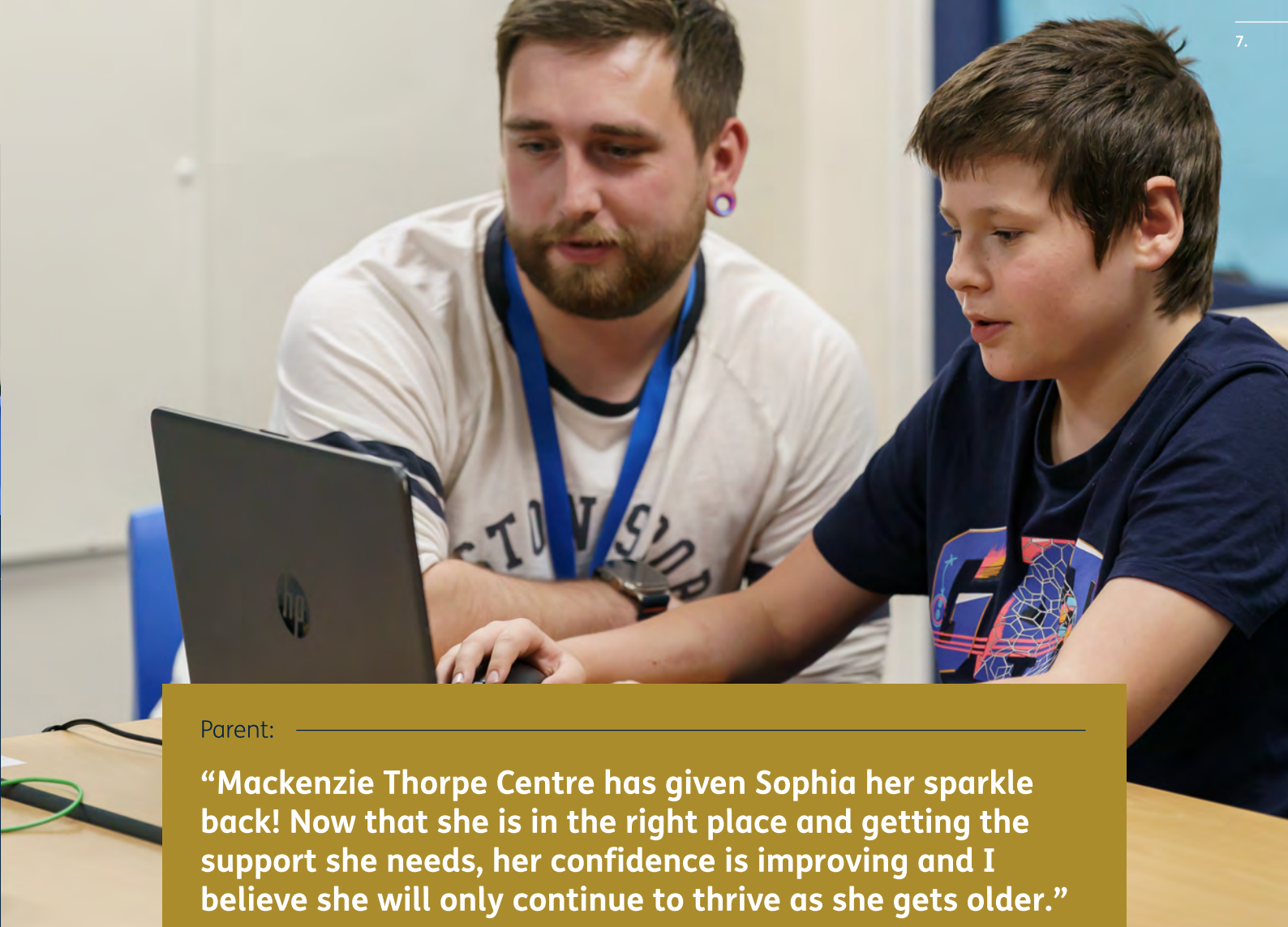
Before a place is offered, Mackenzie Thorpe Centre will strive to ensure that all special educational needs outlined in the child or young person's EHCP are able to be met within the setting, as well as the provision of any additional resources.

If you feel Mackenzie Thorpe Centre could be the right fit for your child, please contact us to arrange a visit to the school or to discuss our [Admissions Policy](#) in more detail.



Vice Principal:

"My role is incredibly rewarding — every day brings the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neurodivergent learners. The relationships we build are the foundation of everything we do, helping young people feel seen, understood, and empowered. It's a privilege to be part of their journey toward adulthood, where they can grow in confidence, independence, and self-worth."



Parent:

"Mackenzie Thorpe Centre has given Sophia her sparkle back! Now that she is in the right place and getting the support she needs, her confidence is improving and I believe she will only continue to thrive as she gets older."



Safeguarding

We place the highest priority on ensuring the safety of all pupils at Mackenzie Thorpe Centre.

We have a number of policies and procedures in place that contribute to our safeguarding commitment, including our [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#) which can be found in the policies section on our website.

Safeguarding is also embedded throughout the school curriculum, providing pupils with the knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe in all aspects of life.



Mackenzie Thorpe Centre

Mackenzie Thorpe Centre is part of the North East Autism Society, a registered charity which has led the way in providing autism-specific care and education for children, young people and adults across the North-East for more than 40 years.

For more information about Mackenzie Thorpe Centre, visit our website or contact:

☎ **01642 810730**

✉ **info@ne-as.org.uk**

🌐 **ne-as.org.uk/mackenzie-thorpe-centre**

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