

= Pathlight School =

Pathlight School is a special school for high @-@ functioning children with autism , located in Ang Mo Kio , Singapore . Founded in 2004 , it is run by the non @-@ profit Autism Resource Centre , and comprises one half of the national educational provision for autistic children . The school coaches students in social and life skills , teaches them mainstream curriculum subjects and prepares them for employment , in an autism friendly environment . With more than 500 pupils enrolled , the school is noted for its achievements in special education in Singapore .

= History =

In 2003 , the Autism Resource Centre (ARC) launched a project to provide comprehensive support for autistic Singaporeans , which included plans to set up the first autism @-@ focused special school in Singapore . The ARC collaborated with the Rainbow Centre over a period of five months to renovate the temporary campus , recruit school staff , decide on the school values and develop the school programmes . After opening in 2004 with 10 teachers and 41 students , Pathlight School conducted charity walks , merchandise sales and other events to raise funds for the introduction of more programmes for an expanding intake . In 2007 , two teachers from Pathlight School won the inaugural Most Outstanding Special Education Teacher Award and Most Innovative Special Education Teacher Award , given by the Singaporean Ministry of Education and National Council of Social Service . In 2009 , the Autism Association of Singapore launched a second autism @-@ focused special school , Eden School , and the two schools formed a partnership . The following year , Pathlight School moved to its permanent campus and announced plans to develop student internship programmes , build an information technology centre , and set up a lifelong learning club for alumni .

= Campus =

The permanent campus of Pathlight School at Ang Mo Kio Avenue 10 , which was constructed by W Architects and cost S \$ 34 million to build , spans 1 @. @ 6 hectares (0 @. @ 016 km2 ; 0 @. @ 0062 sq mi) . Its facilities include 45 classrooms , four computer labs , three courtyards , an industrial kitchen and a multi @-@ purpose area , as well as special art , music and design rooms . The campus was designed to offer students " dignity " and an autism friendly environment . For example , the walls and floors have a simple colour scheme , to avoid triggering sensory overload , while the taps in the canteen are slightly different from each other to help students learn to adopt less rigid routines . Due to limited facilities , some academic lessons , known as satellite classes , are conducted by Pathlight teachers at nearby mainstream schools , including Chong Boon Secondary School , Pierce Secondary School and Bishan Park Secondary School . In 2014 / 2015 will be introduced Yio Chu Kang Secondary School

As of 2012 , they introduced two campuses as Primary 1 to 4 and Vocational Track were in Campus 1 while Primary 5 to 6 and Secondary School were in Campus 2 .

In 2013 , Primary 4 was moved to Campus 2 and in 2015 the Primary 3 were moved to Campus 2 and for Secondary School moved to Campus 1 .

= Programmes =

Unlike most special schools in Singapore , which place little emphasis on academics , Pathlight School uses the same academic curriculum as mainstream primary and secondary schools . The sole exception is that mother tongue lessons are replaced with classes covering social and life skills . The school accommodates the needs of students with smaller class sizes , staff trained to handle autistic children , more visual teaching methods , more predictable environments and individual education plans for each student . Satellite classes and special events give students regular opportunities to interact with neurotypical (non @-@ autistic) peers from mainstream schools ;

exceptional students are allowed to attend classes with mainstream students for some subjects . To prepare students for employment , Pathlight School runs computing courses , a design studio and a cafe staffed by students . The school also produces book compilations of thoughts written by students , conducts exhibitions of student artwork and sells merchandise made by students , to help students develop useful skills , raise funds for the school and raise awareness of autism . In addition , Pathlight School has hosted autism events such as the WeCAN Learning Congress 2010 , where over 20 international experts shared their best practices in autism care with about 560 delegates .

If you 're taking N or O level , they will have 2 @-@ year programme , which will be taking 2 years in Secondary 4 for Express (E) and Normal Technical (NT) while Secondary 5 for Normal Academic (NA) . We will be breaking up into half on course and will be sitting in the second year . So Express and Normal Technical will be 5 @-@ year course . While Normal Academic will be 6 @-@ year course

= = Students = =

As of 2010 , Pathlight School had an enrolment of over 500 students , of whom about 40 % had their school fees of S \$ 500 subsidised . The school caters to autistic Singaporeans aged six to 18 , who are able to access the mainstream curriculum because they are high @-@ functioning , but would have difficulty learning in a mainstream school . Most students take mainstream national examinations , such as the PSLE and O Levels , with results comparable to students from mainstream schools , and some enter mainstream tertiary institutions . About 10 % of students take a vocational track and may transfer to Eden School , which caters to lower @-@ functioning autistic children and focuses on vocational training . Students from Pathlight School have participated in ? and won ? national competitions such as the National Youth Business Challenge 2010 .

In 2015 , the student enrolment had been upsized to 1 @,@ 000 students which their students had been growing and growing . From 2016 onwards , the Secondary school , Express course had been increased to five years and Normal Academic Course had been increased to six years for better understanding and Normal Technical will stayed the same .

= = Management = =

Pathlight School is run by the Autism Resource Centre , a non @-@ profit organisation that also offers early intervention , therapy and training for autistic Singaporeans . The school employs 81 staff , including teachers , therapists and autism consultants , and the school board is headed by founder , ARC president and Member of Parliament Denise Phua . Operating costs of the school are paid by the Ministry of Education and National Council of Social Service , while other costs , estimated at S \$ 5 million per year , are funded through fees , donations , merchandise sales and fundraising events . Under the partnership between Pathlight School and Eden School , the two schools have a centralised admission system and share various resources ; together , they form the national provision of education for children across the autism spectrum .

= = Transportation = =

However , since the MRT stations were not near and only passes by , you can take 45 , 55 , 261 and CT8 in both campuses . Except the Townsville Primary School Stop does not serve CT8 . 55 will be accessed to Bishan MRT Station while 261 will be accessed to Ang Mo Kio MRT Station . Since no bus entered to Ang Mo Kio Street 44 for Campus 2 , they have to walk .