

# Most Innovative Intervention

## Grantham Additional Needs Fellowship

Grantham Additional Needs Fellowship is a unique school, the only one in the country to provide photography lessons to children with special needs. We cater for pupils between the ages of 3 and 19 with moderate to severe learning difficulties and complex needs. Initially, the photography department was set up four years ago after a pupil asked for the opportunity. Initially, there were three pupils partaking but now, there are close to 50 pupils aged between 12-16 years old who enjoy two hours of photography lessons each week.

When they were asked how to make money, the pupils suggested school photographs. After some role-play sessions of setting up a studio, eye contact, giving clear instructions and working on poses and lighting, the small photography team took a school photo of all 176 pupils. This was a success and allowed the purchase of a host of new equipment. The pupils have gone from strength to strength in the last four years.

They have won first and second place at the National SEND Photography Awards. They are also managing to make over £2,000 a year from a range of pupil-generated enterprises and projects which have included the creation of a photography calendar as well as photo baubles. The school goes above and beyond expectations because everything is about the children and offering them the opportunity to learn life skills, as well as unique experiences.

Not every child is academically minded and with some of their needs really limiting how far they can go in traditional education, they are encouraging and teaching individuals alternative skills such as creativity, eye contact and basic ICT. The Photography Department at Ambergate goes above and beyond expectations because in addition to learning lessons, the children are also being equipped with skills for life. This can make an incredible difference between a life of little or a life of meaningful and fulfilled employment.