



**Red Balloon  
LEARNER CENTRES**  
For the recovery of bullied children

# Red Balloon Learner Centres

## Bursary Fund

### What are we?

Red Balloon provides a short-term, fulltime education to children between the ages of 10 and 17 who are too frightened to go to school because of severe bullying or other emotional trauma.

There are currently four Learner Centres, situated in Cambridge, Norwich, NW London and Reading, and a virtual online provision called Red Balloon of the Air (RBAir). Each Centre can take up to 15 children.

### Why do we need a Bursary Fund?

Severely bullied children do not have special education needs, and since they are not disruptive or challenging they slip under the radar of the local authorities. They are simply too frightened to attend school. Once off the school roll these children attract no funding. The Bursary Fund will be used to help fund places for them at Red Balloon.

### What do we do?

Our Centres offer a fulltime programme comprising a wide range of curriculum subjects, together with a comprehensive personal and social education programme called *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, which includes therapy or counselling, the creative arts, one-to-one sessions dealing with understanding emotions, Circle Time, and other confidence boosting sessions. These two strands are interwoven, making up approximately 60% and 40% of the timetable respectively.

Most children will spend three terms with us – after which they are confident enough to return to mainstream school, go on to sixth form college, or enter employment. 95% of the children who spend a year with us return to mainstream education.

Red Balloon is the only charity in the UK which provides a short-term educational and therapeutic programme to support and encourage the return of children to mainstream school, or their move to further education.

If the local authority provides the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) funds of circa £5,000, and a further £5,000 can be raised by parents, local trustees or charitable trusts, a Bursary Fund donation of £10,000 could fund a student for one year at one of our Centres.

[www.redballoonlearner.org.uk](http://www.redballoonlearner.org.uk)

## How good are we at what we do?

**Very!** At the end of the academic year 2012/13:

- **90%** of leavers went on to attend further education or are in employment;
- **100%** of students sitting external examinations performed as well as, or better than, predicted.

## Why are we needed?

Red Balloon is needed because there are over 16,000 children in England between the ages of 11 and 15 who are not at school and who are not getting an appropriate education because of bullying [NatCen, 2011]. No one else does what we do. Since Red Balloon was established in 1996 we have helped 300 children deal with the effects of severe bullying or other trauma. With your support we can help more children get their lives back.

## The Bursary Fund

### How shall we determine if a child should be offered a bursary?

Red Balloon Learner Centre Group Trustees have a clearly defined procedure for the granting of bursaries to potential candidates when funds are available. This procedure will be used to determine if a child should be offered a bursary, or to decide which of several candidates should be offered a bursary if the available funds are insufficient for all.

The Bursary Committee will usually grant a 50% bursary for appropriate candidates. This will be augmented by funds that the local Trustees and Coordinator of the Centre will find from a variety of sources, including the local authority, the school from which the child has come, a parental contribution, Trustees, or local charitable trusts. This ensures that maximum use is made of each bursary.

Donors to the Bursary Fund can expect to be kept in touch with students' progress and given any other salient information.

## How much does it cost?

It costs around £20,000 per year for a child to attend one of our Centres and around £10,000 for them to study at Red Balloon of the Air (RBAir), which delivers the Red Balloon programme online with face-to-face support from a Regional Mentor.



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### Bursary donations:

- Red Balloon received its first contribution to the Bursary Fund in June 2013;
- £2,500 was donated by Ruth Elston to enable a student to complete her last year of school education at RB-Norwich;
- a benefactor gave £16,000, part of which has been used to provide a bursary for a student at RB-Norwich;
- a family foundation has donated £36,000, to be allocated in 2014;
- in 2014 Red Balloon will benefit from a legacy to be used specifically for bursaries.

### If you'd like to know more...

Additional information about the **Red Balloon Bursary Fund** can be obtained from Dr Carrie Herbert MBE. Please contact her via [bursaryfund@group.rbc.org.uk](mailto:bursaryfund@group.rbc.org.uk) or 01223 366052

[www.redballoonlearner.org.uk](http://www.redballoonlearner.org.uk)

Red Balloon Learner Centre Group is  
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