



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

Red Balloon Learner Centres

For the recovery of severely  
bullied and traumatised children

# Red Balloon – Norwich

## Coordinator's welcome

Red Balloon Learner Centres, established in 1996, offer a combined educational and therapeutic programme in a small community setting for children and young people who have self-excluded from school because of severe bullying or other trauma. We aim to:

- raise students' self-esteem;
- get them back on an academic track;
- prepare them for return to mainstream education, employment or training.

Red Balloon - Norwich opened in 2006. We provide for up to 18 students. We seek to develop a community in which all members (staff and students) support each other to learn and to develop the interpersonal skills that they will require to succeed beyond Red Balloon.

You are very welcome to visit us and see what we offer.



*Angela Hewett,  
Coordinator*

## Admissions

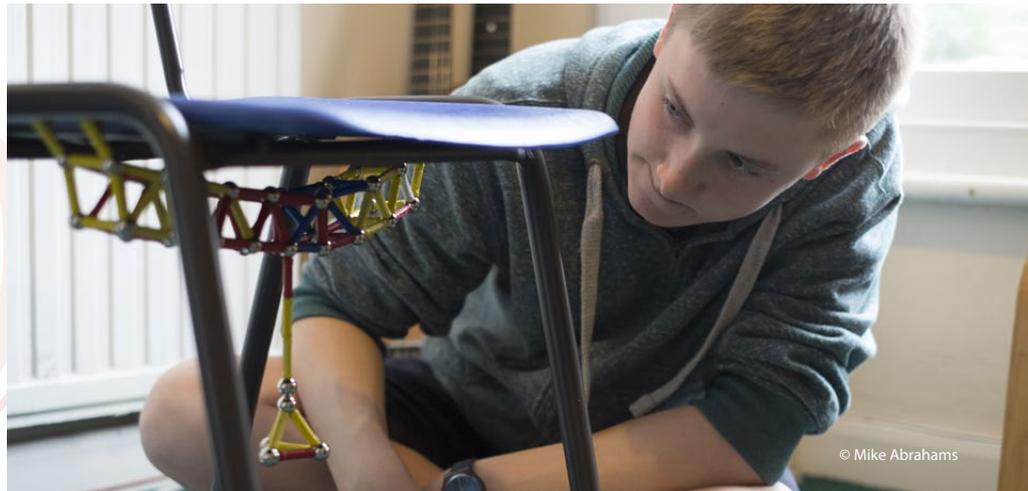
Children and young people aged 11 to 17 who have self-excluded from school can be admitted provided that:

- there is a place available;
  - we consider we can provide for the student's academic, wellbeing, social and physical needs;
- and the student:
- wants to come and will attend regularly;
  - wants to learn and make academic progress;
  - will behave with respect and consideration towards the other students, the staff, visitors and the property.

## What students study

Each student has an individualised programme which includes sessions in academic subjects, creative arts, wellbeing and personal development. Some of these are one-to-one and some are group sessions. This programme is devised in consultation with the student and the staff.

All students follow the core curriculum of maths, English, science, PSHEE, humanities and technology. Creative arts, including music, art, pottery and drama, are also on offer, and we try to enable students to study in other areas if they are of particular interest to them.



The wellbeing curriculum, developed by Red Balloon, covers the themes of 'Self', 'Others' and 'The World'. It aims to help students become more confident, self-aware, empathetic and to be able to manage their emotions and behaviour. We encourage a healthy lifestyle. While there are some discrete sessions, such as therapy or counselling, Circle Time and life skills, wellbeing is embedded throughout the school day and within any extracurricular activities.

## Qualifications and transition

At KS4, students can take GCSEs in English, maths, science, history, art, computing, health and social care, child development, literature, combined science, physics, biology, chemistry and food technology. Entry Level qualifications in English, maths and science as well as a range of ASDAN and Arts Award qualifications are also available to all students.

When a student has recovered their self-esteem and re-engaged with academic work, they will be able to leave Red Balloon and return to mainstream school, employment or training. Care is taken to identify the next step for each student in consultation with their parents or carers, and to ensure that our provision prepares them for that, not only academically, but also with regard to social skills.

## Practical details

The Centre opens at 08:30 and closes at 15:30. Sessions begin at 09:00. There is one short break in the morning and another in the afternoon. Lunch is from 12:00 until 12:50.

Students do not have to wear a uniform, although we do expect them to dress appropriately.

## Staff

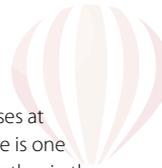
We employ a range of teachers and wellbeing staff as well as an administrator and a housekeeper. The Centre is managed by the coordinator, Angela Hewett and her deputy, Linda Clements.

*Red Balloon is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and requires all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Our designated safeguarding lead person is Angela Hewett.*

## Additional Information

The Red Balloon charity has its own website ([www.redballoonlearner.org](http://www.redballoonlearner.org)). Details about the charity and all its policies, including safeguarding and complaints, are provided there. There is a page dedicated to the Norwich Centre. If you anticipate difficulties in accessing a Centre, then please ask the coordinator about Red Balloon of the Air, our distance learning provision.

We help local authorities meet their statutory responsibility to provide a full-time education.



**Ali:** *Red Balloon has given me somewhere that I can feel safe. It has also given me somewhere that I can be myself without having to worry about the teachers and sometimes students, making my school life difficult.*



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

Please contact us:

Coordinator: *Angela Hewett Cert Ed*

Proprietor: *Dr Carrie Herbert MBE*

Chair of Trustees: *Dan Kelly*

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Find us on:

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Stay informed:

Sign up for the Red Balloon e-newsletter at [admin@group.rblc.org.uk](mailto:admin@group.rblc.org.uk)



All Centre policies are available on our website

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



**James:** *Before coming to Red Balloon I struggled a lot with school life from small problems like dealing with horrible people to big things like having panic attacks every day there. Red Balloon has helped me realise that I can achieve things I thought I couldn't. Red Balloon makes me feel excited to come to school, I never dread coming here and I've also made some amazing friends.*