



Red Balloon
LEARNER CENTRES
For the recovery of bullied children



Help build a
new Centre
for vulnerable
young people

Red Balloon Reading

*find out
more!*



Click or
Scan



This year not only marks our 10th anniversary but also we have welcomed our 100th student onto our roll. Over the past ten years we have moved from a Centre with two teachers and 6 students to a staff team of 20. Our student roll is now up to 24 students. As the need for more specialist provision for young people has increased, we have grown our building and curriculum to meet the demand.

We find ourselves in a moment in time where we have now outgrown our current site and in order to support the number of young people in our area, we need to expand. To do so we need the help of the local community. As a charity, every penny we raise goes towards helping more young people access learning and improve their wellbeing.

I feel privileged to work for Red Balloon - Reading and for the opportunity to support young people in our area. There is no greater feeling than knowing you have helped positively shape a young person's future and I invite you to share that experience.

Christina Pepper
Head of Centre



*find out
more!*

Click or Scan



Who we are

Red Balloon Learner Centres, established in 1996, offer a combined educational and therapeutic programme in a small community setting for young people who have self-excluded from school because of severe bullying, trauma and/or are struggling with mental health.

We aim to:

- raise young peoples' self-esteem;
- close any gaps in their learning;
- prepare them for return to mainstream education, employment, or training.

What we do

Red Balloon - Reading opened in 2011 and this year will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

We provide support for up to 24 students across five local authorities. 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.

Everyone in our community has the right to learn, to feel safe and to be respected and that forms the core of everything we do here.



*find out
more!*

Click or Scan





Qualifications

At KS4, students can take GCSEs in English, Maths and Science as well as other qualifications (Entry Level, Functional Skills, etc.) across the curriculum.



How we help

Individual timetables

Each student has a bespoke timetable tailored to their needs. Working in one-to-one lessons or as part of a small group, sessions include academic subjects, creative arts, well-being and personal development.

Integrated well-being

We offer an individualised well-being programme to each student in a safe and supportive community.

A range of therapies (music, art, canine and equine) are available, and Circle Time, PSHEE, Lifeskills and Mentoring supplement the curriculum and imbed well-being throughout the day.

Well-being helps rebuild students' self-esteem and confidence, enabling them to progress in personal development and academic attainment.

Moving on

When a student's well-being has improved and they have re-engaged with academic work, they are able to leave Red Balloon and return to mainstream school, employment or training.

We work with students and their parents/carers to identify the next step and support the transition to their new placement.

find out more!

Click or Scan





Expansion project

Over the past three years, Red Balloon - Reading has seen a significant increase in the number of referrals it receives. According to the NHS in 2020, "One in six school-aged children has a mental health problem. This is a rise from one in ten in 2004 and one in nine in 2017."

The recent pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns have and will continue to have a further impact on young people's mental health for some time. Therefore, we recognise there is an ever-growing need for more provisions in the area to support young people in our area.

The aims of the expansion project are to:

- Offer RBR provision to more young people from the surrounding areas
- Provide more subjects within the curriculum by sharing specialised teachers across the two sites
- Secure a building that enables more interactive lessons (workshops, cooking, etc.)

find out more!

Click or Scan



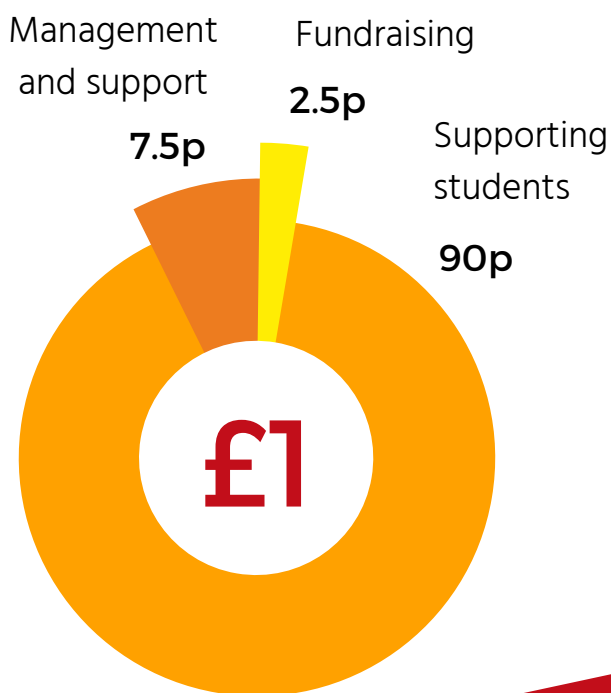
**OUR
GOAL**

**£180,000
IN THREE YEARS**

Over three years we need to raise £180,000.

This money will be used to create and tailor the new physical centre, provide resources, enrichment activities and therapeutic support for students at the new Centre.

Where your support goes



Across Red Balloon in 2018/19, 90p of every £1 donated went directly to supporting our students.

We cannot operate effectively without good management and fundraising efforts.

Last year, 7.5p of every £1 was spent on strategic support and 2.5p was spent on raising funds.

*find out
more!*

Click or Scan



What your support can do

£100

would support



a kayaking experience for a group of 10 young people

£500

would provide



a computer for a young person

£1,000

would provide



an interactive whiteboard for a classroom

£5,000

would build



a new therapy room to support our students

£10,000

would build



our new collaborative kitchen in the new premises

£20,000

would help us provide



a year of specialist support, such as Canine and Equine therapy.

£30,000

would provide



a therapist for a year to support our students

For more information about corporate sponsorship and incentives please contact Christina Pepper at corporate@reading.rblc.org.uk

find out more!



Click or Scan

“

**I'm so fortunate to
be here at Red
Balloon and finally
love learning again.**

”

Your support gives vulnerable young people the help they need to overcome their challenges and reach the bright futures they deserve.

Your help really does change lives.

Thank you



Red Balloon Reading

220-222 Kings Road, Reading, RG1 4JJ

Telephone: 0118 958 3004

Email: admin@reading.rblc.org.uk

Registered charity no: 1136446

www.redballoonlearner.org

2021/2022

*find out
more!*

Click or Scan

