



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

Red Balloon of the Air

For the recovery of severely  
bullied and traumatised children

# Red Balloon of the Air

## Coordinator's welcome

Red Balloon Learner Centres have been offering a combined educational and therapeutic programme for children and young people who have self-excluded from school because of severe bullying or other trauma since 1996. Our aims are to:

- raise students' self-esteem;
- re-engage them with academic learning;
- prepare them for return to appropriate mainstream education, or entry to employment or training.

Red Balloon of the Air (RBAir), our distance learning provision, was established in 2010. 'Air' offers students a bespoke, integrated programme of academic education and wellbeing provision, delivered both online and face-to-face. Our practice is fully in accord with that provided within our 'bricks and mortar' centres. You are very welcome to contact me for further information.



*Stephanie Franklin  
Coordinator*

## Admissions

Students aged 11 to 18 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 and social needs;

and the student:

- wants to attend and will attend regularly;
- wants to learn and make academic progress;
- will behave with respect and consideration towards the other students, the staff and the equipment.

## Offer

RBAir provides a programme of education, wellbeing and community support that helps young people to reconnect with their education. This enables school and academy commissioners to meet their educational and developmental obligations for vulnerable enrolled students. RBAir also provides for young people holding EHC plans who require extensive 1:1 support. This is arranged on an individual basis and involves RBAir working closely with other agencies that may be supporting the child. The programme factors in relevant aspects of the young person's circumstances

**RBAir won the Gold Award for the 'Best e-learning project in the not for profit sector' at the 2015 E-Learning Awards ahead of seven other organisations shortlisted in the same category.**

and is designed to meet the outcomes identified in the EHC plan and help the young person progress to the next stage of their education.

## What students study

Each student has a bespoke programme that 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, IT and PSHEE. We also offer humanities, psychology, French, Spanish, Japanese, German and Latin. 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 sessions that specifically focus upon wellbeing and personal development, such as counselling and circle time, wellbeing is embedded throughout the whole of the curriculum.

## Qualifications and transition

At KS4, students can take GCSEs in a range of subjects. Entry Level qualifications in English, maths and science and ASDAN qualifications are also available and we are continually researching other appropriate courses of study and accreditation.

When a student has recovered their self-esteem and re-engaged with academic work, we support them in their return to mainstream school, or to access further education, 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.

## Staff

A list of all our staff (teachers, regional mentors, wellbeing staff and administrators) together with their qualifications is available on the website.

*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 Stephanie Franklin, and the organisation's lead person is Bob Sproson, Director of Education.*

## Additional Information

The Red Balloon charity has its own website ([www.redballoonlearner.org](http://www.redballoonlearner.org)).

Details about the charity and its policies, including safeguarding and complaints, are provided there. There is a page dedicated to Red Balloon of the Air.



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**Jess: RBAir has helped me by introducing me to new people and helping me back into learning. My confidence has grown, I'm amazed by that!**



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

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

Please contact us at:

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Chair of Trustees: *Stan Webster OBE*

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Find us on:



RedBalloonLCG



[www.carrieherbert.wordpress.com](http://www.carrieherbert.wordpress.com)

Stay informed:

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



All RBAir policies are available on our website

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



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