

**The Jigsaw Centre**

Extended Education Support Services

Our Local Offer

**The Jigsaw Centre provides education for permanently excluded pupils in years 1-6 as well as providing an ‘outreach Service’ to schools in Central Bedfordshire.**

We offer a caring, stimulating and supportive environment. Our pupils are given the opportunity to raise self-esteem and re-engage with their learning and develop a more positive attitude towards education. There is a strong focus on the pupils’ academic and personal development along with an emphasis on preparing pupils to return to mainstream school or other suitable provision.

Our curriculum is tailor made to meet the needs of our pupils and takes full account of any gaps or indeed areas of strength that our pupils have. Students are assessed on entering the Centre and the curriculum adjusted so that their needs are catered for. Jigsaw work in partnership with Hawthorn Park Community Primary (HPCP) and children have access to the school and its associated resources whenever possible. Jigsaw has adopted the 2014 curriculum and the subsequent planning is linked with HPCP.

We provide intensive support for all our pupils at Jigsaw and strive to work in partnership with a wide range of agencies to make sure our students thrive whilst attending the Centre. Central to this is positive and timely communications to ensure that the children and parents/carers work in unison with us.

Students are supported in making transition on completion of their time at the Centre and staff work in partnership with the next school or provision to maximise their chances of success. Each pupil will have a plan for the next steps with clearly defined timescales that is embedded within a system that ensures that Jigsaw planning translates into appropriate actions and support.

Placements are typically six weeks but are flexible to cater for the pupil’s individual needs.

Intrinsic to the Jigsaw Centre is the attached Outreach team who work hand in hand with schools and other agencies in Central Bedfordshire to reduce exclusions.

The service strives to support schools so that they, in turn, can support their own young people to remain within education, to identify and remove any barriers to learning and in so doing, promote inclusion.

The Jigsaw team provide training and professional development opportunities that:

• Acknowledge the complexity of children with behavioural difficulties;

• Develop an understanding of Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH);

• Consider Social, Emotional and Mental Health in the context of the strengths and needs of the child or young person as a whole;

• Focus on the value, principles and practice of early intervention with children and young people with SEMH;

• Introduce participants to the key principles of working with children and young people with SEMH and develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in this area;

• Introduce strategies and approaches to enable those working with children and young people with SEMH to support them through difficult emotional experiences and through key challenges such as transition;

Jigsaw staff offer, where appropriate, comprehensive baseline assessments that indicate subsequent strategies.

Jigsaw staff work in a variety of different ways, from one to one weekly pupil support to group work that seeks to develop both the skills of the pupils as well as those of the supporting ‘in school’ staff, parents/carers. In addition to this , Jigsaw provide training for schools on a number of topics relevant to supporting young people at risk of exclusion and with social, emotional and mental health needs. This work is tailor made to the needs of each establishment.

The Jigsaw Centre run a ‘Therapeutic Hub’ on a Wednesday throughout the day where pupils that have been referred and accepted, receive counselling sessions to assist in addressing their needs. Each of these students have typically 6/8 sessions with a fully qualified Educational Psychotherapist.

Jigsaw also have a Parent Support worker attached to the Centre who works on a daily basis, in tandem, with other Jigsaw staff and County agencies. The aim of this is to assist in building holistic support with the families of children referred to Jigsaw.