

The Learning Link Offer 2024-25

Rationale

The Learning Link is a safe space in school for vulnerable students with diagnosed or emerging/underlying SEND needs who require additional support to meet need and/or with attending school on a full-time basis. The purpose of the Learning Link is to support students with SEND needs who:

- Are not attending school (emotional based school avoidance);
- Are Severely Absent or Persistently Absent;
- Have a personalised curriculum where they access external or internal intervention programmes;
- Work with specialist external or internal staff related to need;
- Require a 'soft start' to the school day;
- Require support with social times.

SEND needs should never be a barrier to learning or accessing the full curriculum and the Learning Link should be seen as a support or intervention strategy in enabling students to do this.

In recognising that students have differing levels of often complex needs, the offer is in 3 levels:

1. **Adapted** - Timescale will be bespoke to student need and context. For example, a student who has not attended school for a prolonged period of time will require a personalised approach. It may be that a student accessing the Learning Link does so as part of an agreed Part Time timetable - this will be in exceptional circumstances and as per BWCET guidance. The Learning Link will be used to build readiness for learning in the classroom and increasing their timetable gradually with the support of the SEND Manager as an emotional mentor.
2. **Graduated** - Short term scale of two weeks, this could be subject specific. Difficulties in subjects are identified and, in those subjects, working in The Link as an alternative environment. Subject work is expected to be continued and there will be an expected date of return to class with the subject teacher/subject leader kept up to date. Students will be supported back to class with a plan in place to allow this to happen. Students may be accompanied into class as required with a LSA.
3. **Flexible** - Short or long term, will involve the support of a self-regulation card. Visits to The Link are a form of 'reset' and students will be expected to take time out and return to their normal timetable within or ready for the next lesson. Time allowed: quickest turnaround/10 minutes.

Where students access the Learning Link at an Adapted or Graduated level there will be a personalised Learning Link Student Intervention Plan completed along with parents setting out the formal agreement including expectations, timescale and review dates.

In addition, the Learning Link is inclusive and may be accessed by students who have an identified need e.g. bereavement. Again, this is with the purpose of supporting their emotional need at that period of time so supporting their attendance to continue their education.