



SPARKS LEARNING HUB

Our Mission

Sparks Learning Limited is an organisation devoted to reigniting learners' interest and engagement with their own learning journeys. Sparks Learning is an alternative provision hub based on the edge of Dartmoor, in Ashburton, Devon. We work with local schools and local authorities to support learners who are experiencing difficulties in a mainstream school environment. Our teachers are experienced, gentle and professional and seek to spark the passion to become lifelong learners. We understand that the school journey is not easy for every learner and seek creative ways to draw individuals back into feeling empowered and motivated to become the best versions of themselves. We nurture strong relationships and work together to build great futures.



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Our Learners

We specialise in working with Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 learners who:

- Have experienced several Adverse Childhood Events, leading to trauma and attachment difficulties and have therefore struggled to engage in or maintain attendance within an educational environment.
- Have experienced or are at risk of a family breakdown.
- Are within the care system or at risk of entering the care system.
- Have a range of learning needs, including Autism, ADHD, learning disabilities etc.
- Experience high levels of anxiety and need extra support to help them understand themselves and guidance on the next steps that they need to take.
- Have a history of school avoidance and refusal.



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Our Remit

Sparks Learning offers a nurturing environment for young people struggling with the pressures of mainstream educational settings. As an alternative educational establishment founded by experienced, qualified teachers, we understand the current pressures on teenagers' mental health. We tailor our sessions to ensure individual needs are incorporated, and young people are provided with an exciting, broad curriculum which reflects their aspirations and personal goals; at the same time as nurturing their mental health needs with sensitive, flexible and bespoke targets to enable all learners to flourish and make progress.



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Curriculum

Our curriculum embraces a range of skills to help learners to explore their individual passions and enjoy their experiences with us. It is driven by our belief in strong communication skills and empathy for others in society. These aspects are explicitly taught alongside strategies to help develop and nurture areas of specific individual need. We incorporate daily English and Maths, PSHE and Personal Development sessions into our activities and work towards Functional Skills or GCSE qualifications, taught by experienced specialist teachers, so that all learners can leave us with the skills and knowledge to move to the next stages of their lives.



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Our Pathways

Students will follow different pathways during their time with us at Sparks Learning Hub. This will be chosen, together with the young person and interested stakeholders to ensure the greatest opportunities for success.

GCSE Pathway

We currently offer GCSE tuition with experienced and qualified professionals in Maths, English Language/Literature and Music. We help students to prepare for reintegration into a mainstream setting feeling confident that they can manage the expectations of their core subject requirements and sit national exams alongside their peers.



Functional Skills/KS3 Pathway

Our Functional Skills/KS3 pathway incorporates a range of more practical skills and basic Literacy and Numeracy skills to fill gaps in knowledge and enable young people to advance to the next steps successfully.



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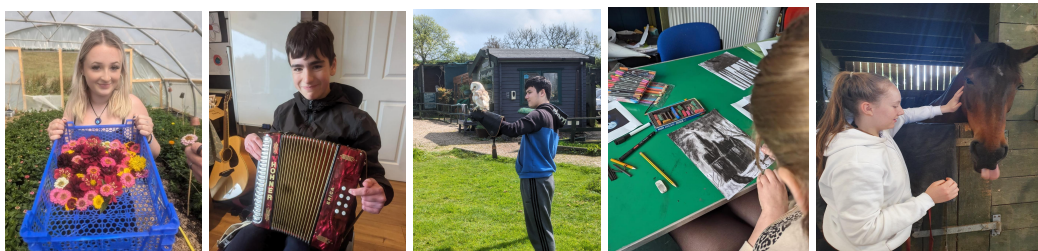
Therapeutic Enrichment Sessions for well-being and positive mental health

During our sessions, young people will have the opportunity to opt to complete enrichment courses in a range of additional specialist areas; many of which could lead to additional qualifications such as: NICAS Climbing Award; AQA Unit Awards in fields such as Leisure and Recreation; Animal Care; Hair and Beauty; Environmental Science; Art and Design; Work Related Learning; or Equine Therapy.



We believe that the most important skill to learn at school is how to be the best version of ourselves so we can live a valuable, productive life and be a happy and positive member of society. Our Personal Development programme is the heart of our learning experience. With our therapeutic enrichment programme at the centre of this, our young people will learn about the world they live in and the opportunities that are available to them. We aim to boost confidence and self-esteem whilst arming our young people with a range of strategies and skills to live productive, meaningful and happy lives. Therapies include:

- Adventure Therapy, where we push our boundaries, build confidence and explore risks in a safe environment
- Animal Therapy, where blocked communication can be unlocked and we learn self-regulation skills
- Horticulture and Nature Therapies, where we explore the environment around us and reap the rewards and freedom of being outside
- Sports and Arts Therapies where we develop and refine existing skills or discover talents we never knew we had



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Restorative Approaches

We have a non-punitive approach to behavioural issues and are trained in restorative practices. We aim to build trust and respect within our community and work hard to help our young people and their families to understand one another, communicate well, and find strength in the differences between us. We acknowledge that many learners may struggle to handle conflict and communicate their feelings effectively. Our approach offers opportunities for all young people to feel heard and empowered, helping them to take responsibility for their own actions and the part they can play in improving their own outcomes. We help them to develop coping strategies to navigate difficult relationships and develop a strong and supportive environment where they feel valued and respected.

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Family Focus

We believe a combined and supportive approach facilitates the best outcome for all the learners in our care, which is why we involve the family from the point of first contact through to successful reintegration into the main school. As an alternative provider, we recognise the impact a disrupted educational journey can have on families. Sadly, it is often the case that parents/carers feel excluded, concerned and silenced by the system. We seek to work in collaboration with parents, schools and linked agencies to build a personalised, supportive and child-centred program of engagement and learning. Communication is open, regular and constructive. Opportunities to visit the learning hub and attend events are provided throughout the placement and positive experiences are shared and celebrated.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is of paramount importance and all teaching staff are Level 3 trained. Staff benefit from dedicated CPD time to ensure they complete regular training updates to enhance and improve their knowledge and understanding of the latest advice and best practice in this area. We follow safer recruitment practices, engage learners in active understanding of safeguarding and positive relationships, and our Personal Development programme ensures learners have plenty of opportunities to discuss a wide range of potentially problematic issues and behaviours. We are committed to helping improve the outcomes for the young people in our care and have a wide range of additional support and information for parents/carers.

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Logistics

Sparks Learning Hub works closely with Local Education Authorities and schools as an Alternative Provider. We currently offer sessions on weekdays during term time. School hours are from 9.30-14.30 based at Ashburton Football Club or St Andrew's Church Hall in Ashburton. Prices depend on the level of support and specific requirements of the young person.

Learners can arrive from 9.15 at the venue and all teaching and enrichment activities throughout the day are included. If the student will require 1 to 1 support, we may be able to help at an additional cost. We offer 6-week or 12-week placements. These can be further extended if required. Bespoke provision is also available on request at an additional cost. Please contact us for further information or to arrange a consultation. Transport can be offered at an additional cost from some areas.

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