

WELCOME TO SWANWICK LODGE LEARNING CENTRE

Welcome to Swanwick Lodge Learning Centre. At Swanwick Lodge we have an imaginatively designed Learning Centre with education provision for 43 weeks a year. Although the Centre operates mainly on academic terms and statutory holidays in line with the maintained sector, we promote education and assessment throughout the year and during the long summer holiday run a four week summer programme of literacy and numeracy together with structured activities, with a two week break in August.

Aims and Ethos

The principles underpinning education reflect the five key outcomes for children and young people in Every Child Matters. These outcomes are used

to measure the success of working with the young people placed at Swanwick Lodge.

- Being healthy, enjoying good physical and mental health and living a healthy lifestyle.
- Staying safe, being protected from harm and neglect and growing up able to look after themselves.
- Enjoying and achieving, getting the most out of life and developing broad skills for adulthood.
- Making a positive contribution, to the community and to society and not engaging in anti-social or offending behaviour.
- Economic well-being; overcoming socio-economic

disadvantages to achieve the full potential in life.

These outcomes are reflected in the curriculum framework, which is planned to develop confident individuals and successful learners who are able to lead fulfilling lives and make a positive contribution to society, the environment and the economy.

The Education Environment

The Learning Centre aims to provide as normal an educational facility as possible, where pupils are supported and encouraged to achieve their potential while not feeling anxious or under pressure to do so. We aim to create and maintain an environment where pupils may be stretched but not threatened.



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It is a place where pupils are expected and encouraged to work and learn to the best of their ability, whatever that may be.

We set a high standard of behaviour through mutual respect, yet acknowledge that in the nature of their prior experiences, this may take time to develop. Teachers call upon patience, empathy, resourcefulness and self-assurance in the delivery of the curriculum as well as create a positive and non-threatening learning environment.

The curriculum model reflects the National Curriculum with additional sessions in literacy and numeracy. Programmes of study are determined by the comprehensive assessment which provides a link to the curriculum, monitors performance, promotes further learning and provides a sense of achievement and success through accreditation.

The students

Young people are admitted to the centre with a wide and varied range of success and experiences from all areas of the education spectrum. They arrive with a diverse range of abilities, ages and prior educational history, which are often linked to a history of persistent non-attendance and difficulties associated with emotional problems both in and out of their education provision. The learning experience at Swanwick Lodge is designed to provide them with a stable learning experience, linked to a return to the maintained sector, special school, PRU, College or any other identified educational placements.

Accreditation.

Formal examinations and accreditation are at the heart of the curriculum. Length of stay determines the exams taken and if the students are not continuing courses from existing placements, we



offer GCSEs, ASDAN and AQA Unit Awards covering each subject. In all cases accreditation is seen as evidence of achievement and is given a high priority particularly as it raises their self esteem and provides a real outcome to their studies. We celebrate Koestler

Ofsted

The Centre is inspected triennially. Reports have always been favourable with the last one clear in that ...

'The Centre had established a stimulating learning environment with a very positive ethos based on respect, which supports very good teaching and learning. The quality of the environment was exceptionally good and all the teaching in the main programme of the classes was graded satisfactory or better with a very high proportion, 22%, as excellent'.

Working Together

We have an integrated approach to the care of the young people in education with care staff having a recognised role in its delivery. To confirm this partnership, classes are smaller than in other settings with the ratio of one teacher or instructor

and a member of care staff to a maximum of four students. We also work closely with the Psychological Therapy Team to ensure an inclusive approach to monitoring and reviewing care plans.

Each student has an identified teacher who acts as the first link in the chain of educational support, providing patience and understanding together with the time and opportunity to focus on their concerns, problems and difficulties should these arise. The teacher also acts as professional liaison between the Centre and other professionals such as educational psychologists, education welfare specialist and youth workers.

The Centre has strong links with the designated Connexions Personal Adviser who provides a comprehensive range of guidance and careers related programmes.



THE LEARNING CENTRE

Special Education

It is understood that all the young people placed at Swanwick Lodge, by virtue of their presence, have special needs, and that as part of that, they have special educational needs. On admission all young people are assessed by the SENCO to determine their literacy, numeracy, general ability levels and their preferred learning styles. This generates a report which matches individual need and is shared with the staff. Existing statements of special educational needs are reflected in the in-house report.

The SENCO liaises with outside agencies and the Swanwick Lodge Psychological Team in the preparation and review of statements of SEN and Personal Education Plans.

Each young person has an Individual Education Plan which is closely

monitored by the Literacy and Numeracy Co-ordinator. Students are actively involved in the discussion of all aspects of their IEP, achievements and planned progression. Where appropriate, a young person may be withdrawn from some timetabled sessions for individual support in literacy and numeracy.

Literacy and Numeracy

All young people are encouraged to improve their reading skills and take pleasure in reading by spending half an hour reading quietly during the structured day. Pupils are able to choose their own book from a wide range of fiction and non fiction, easy readers to novels, from the library. Once a book has been read, each student writes a book review to their ability. Extra support is given to non readers or early readers. Basic literacy materials are also used to help non readers

become familiar with the conventions of reading and writing.



Each day a half an hour is spent working on numeracy skills. Each young person is assessed during their Maths lesson and their level recorded. This information determines which of the three Numeracy packs they receive; Basic Skills, Improvers, or Advanced. Each pack contains work on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division set out in interesting problem solving formats. There are also logic puzzles and games included in the packs to challenge the pupils.

The progress of each young person is discussed with them on a monthly basis and their targets are agreed for their IEPs.

English

The ethos of the English department is to promote enjoyment of the use of language and of a range of literature, within the framework of the National Curriculum requirements and informed by an assessment of the young person's individual abilities and knowledge. While research has shown that many of our young people are at attainment levels well below the national average for their age group, we also have young people with high level skills in English and our individual education programmes reflect this variety of attainment. Our aim is for all young people to become effective communicators, both in speech and writing and for them

to have well-developed listening, comprehension and discussion skills. We enable students to read proficiently both for research and pleasure and actively promote use of the library. We also take part in national poetry and letter-writing competitions.

*As I flickered my
torch, I saw crumbly,
dusty, gloomy walls.
Spiders scratching
in the closed in
corner as I stopped.
There were old
fashioned, ancient
newspapers layered
on the floor, as I
turned my head I
saw a scruffy, tatty
chest of drawers,
also boxes of rusty
nails just beneath
everything.
I was amazed.*

By J aged 12

Maths

Regardless of age and ability maths will remain a key requirement in our lives. Although some of us try hard to avoid it, we cannot ignore the fact that we all have to use some maths skills on a daily basis so the initial emphasis is on basic skills such as adding up, taking away, time and handling money. Some students will be more advanced and therefore have more options to improve their skills and knowledge leading to national accreditation. The use of books, software programmes and Successmaker support the learning in this subject.

THE LEARNING CENTRE

Science

Science is often considered “boring, difficult and very uncool” There is no doubt that this can be the case. However, we try to ensure the science that is covered is relevant to the young person regardless of their age and ability. It is taught at a huge variety of levels to include those young people who have had little or no experiences and have low abilities. It can also be taught at a level which allows the individual young people to consider sitting national accreditation including GCSEs.

Although all the sciences can be taught ie. biology chemistry and physics, in practise we strongly prioritise the life and living processes attainment target (biology). No matter how old you are there is an increasing need to learn about how your body works and the problems that we are likely to face through our lives. At Swanwick Lodge we try to make the science relevant and individually targeted to the current and future needs of each young person.

PDL - Personal Development Learning

The aim here is for young people to learn about themselves in order to keep safe, to understand how their behaviours affect others and how the behaviours of others affect them. We focus on specific programmes of work covering health related matters, citizenship, offending behaviour, work related

learning and Connexions, community links, humanities and world of work week.

Health

This is one of the most important areas of work for our young people. To promote a real and effective approach to change lives, we enlist the help of a number of agencies such as Sex Sense, a local health organisation for young people, the local health promotion team, branches of the Samaritans, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Connexions with regard to drug education. The skills they learn help them to live in the community of the Swanwick Lodge and will also benefit them in adult life.



Citizenship

Understanding the world in which we live today is a complex and often bewildering task.



We learn about the expectations of citizens in society, how communities differ, how they are organised and where individuals can access help in life. Community links include the Hants Fire and Rescue Service, Canine Partners and Mobile Petz.

Offending Behaviour

We have a seamless approach to this important subject area and ensure it is interwoven into the whole curriculum. The ethos of the centre ensures topics are discussed openly, views are heard, other points of view are understood, negotiations take place on a regular basis and morals are discussed frequently within lessons. Workshops about life in prison, drug education, services for addicts, Victim Support, the Prison No Way Trust, Connexions, Citizenship, PDL and Humanities enhance the curriculum fully.

Work Related Learning and Connexions

Work related learning and Connexions play an important part in the life of our students and we work closely with the Fareham Connexion office. The Our Careers PA has developed programmes on a variety of issues from making a

good impression to job hunting for all key stages and delivers these on a cyclical basis every week. The PA also provides careers advice, liaises with other connexions offices throughout the county and country and attends reviews where possible. We also have a second PA who works on more personal issues on a regular basis.

Community Links

It is essential that young people in secure accommodation are not cut off from society and remain an integral part of their community. To help achieve this we have developed a big programme of community links involving as many speakers and visitors from the community whenever possible. Many of these visitors have been mentioned above but others have included, the Army Careers Service, the Hampshire Garden Trust, the Royal Legion, local colleges, UNICEF, local

THE LEARNING CENTRE

historians, a dietician, the Fareport Training Organisation, the Mouth and Foot Painters Association and South West Trains Education Department.

Humanities

Sessions cover a wide range of topics where the students learn about the world in which we live. These include the geography of the world, the historical roots of many of the prejudices of today and how festivals are celebrated by different cultures and religions. We celebrate diversity through the support of religious leaders from within the local community at various festivals.

World of Work

Work Experience is an essential component of education so we target the last week of the academic year to give young people the

experience of hands on vocational sessions. Local employment providers and trainers as well as business and crafts people work with us to provide a real and true experience of the world of work. Sessions also include telephone skills, interview skills, health and safety in the workplace and team building. This week is the highlight of the educational year with enthusiasm and commitment from all the visitors, teaching staff and some care staff but most of all the students as they realise their potential and abilities

Information Technology

Computers are a part of everyday life, and it is difficult to think of an area which is not touched by them at some point. Learning basic IT skills helps students survive in the modern world; filling in forms, ordering

goods, and persuading employers that they are the best person for the job! The focus is CLAIT and the modules followed are 'Word Processing', Spreadsheets and Graphs', Desktop Publishing', 'Presentation graphics', 'Databases' and 'Drawing Tools'. As CLAIT is a national scheme, any student who moves on before completing all five modules can carry on in their local college or school.



Art and design

Art and Design within Swanwick Lodge offers the students the chance to get involved with a wide range of creative projects giving them the opportunity to gain national accreditation as well as having their work shown or utilised locally or in national exhibitions. The students have achieved success in the annual Koestler Awards Scheme in London, significantly competing against adults in some of the categories.

We have been involved in some cross curricula initiatives in partnership with Portsmouth City Care Trust's 'Sex Sense' Team at the Ella Gordon Unit to create age appropriate informative posters to promote A.I.D.S /H.I.V Awareness, to be used in the city. Students have helped to design and construct a range of artefacts for variety of groups

such as Southampton University Players, Manor Farm Country Park and Chiltern Primary School. The young people have worked in groups to design and paint two murals outside and two inside to commemorate the Olympics and underwater themes. These projects have been used as key parts of their course work for G.C.S.E Art and Design and/or AQA units of accreditation.

Fabric Technology.

Fabric Technology is a successful and popular subject. Emphasis is placed mainly on practical work, which is under taken by pupils of all ages and abilities. The pupils are taught simple hand stitching and how to use the sewing machine safely. They progress to making a selection of items for personal use and decoration.



Everything they make they are proud to give to their families as presents such as cushions, soft sculptures based on consumer products such as chocolate bars, toothpastes and fruit and veg. They have also made garments such as boxer shorts, skirts and trousers; designed and made their own bags and holdalls and doorstops using animals as subjects. The work forms part of the Art GCSE curriculum.



THE LEARNING CENTRE

Design and Resistant Material Technology

Our recently refurbished design and technology workshop offers the student opportunities to pursue a range of projects, ranging from a small toy boat to a lathe turned wooden fruit bowl using a mixture of materials such as soft/hard woods, plastics, acrylics and metals. Students learn safe practice of working with tools and machinery, and technical drawing styles used in the design and construction of projects. They are also encouraged to think of their own projects/ideas and develop them from a rough sketch to a final work piece.



The work produced is regularly on display but leaves with the student and is often handed out as gifts to family or friends.

Modern foreign languages

Young people who are following a GCSE course in an MFL can be supported in their course through individual tuition. Lessons in French, German or Spanish are offered to give young people an experience of another culture. We also use a variety of materials to support students for whom English is not the first language.

Leatherwork.

Leatherwork provides a unique experience within the curriculum. The aim is to give the students practice in hand and eye coordination with a creatively planned satisfactory end product. Tooling techniques require a steady hand combined with tool angle pressure and tool type.

This helps to develop essential practical skills and a high level of concentration, not always in evidence at first!



Each student is instructed in the basic skills associated with tooling leather products. This includes a basic knowledge in leather source, manufacture and usage. The working of leather techniques helps the student to understand the way each tool is held, including tool pressure used for different effects. After the basic instruction the students are encouraged to plan and design new products. They learn to be responsible for

the care and use of a wide range of tooling equipment along with the individual set of tools provided.

Motor Vehicle Technology

The motor vehicle workshop gives the student the opportunity to learn how to carry out servicing and repairs on motor vehicles ranging from tasks such as light and level checking, brake realigning, valve clearance adjustment and major engine/ gearbox rebuilds. They can also learn how to carry out manual metal arc welding and Mig welding. As with all our subjects, this opportunity is open to male and female students. The approach relates closely to a workshop setting to reflect an employment environment.

Physical Education

As with all our subjects, students are encouraged to develop positive attitudes towards themselves and others and where a sense of fair play is actively promoted. The students participate in a wide range of activities such as badminton, basketball, tennis, dance, football, cricket, indoor athletics and health related fitness. Health related fitness forms a crucial part of the curriculum where the importance of exercise in promoting good health and the association between health and diet is learnt and experienced. Individual fitness programmes and challenges are designed to encourage the students to continue and develop in their pursuit of health and a sustainable healthy lifestyle.

There is also the opportunity to access the GCSE short course in this subject. Special events are organised such as the streetdance / breakdance workshop provided by Impact Dance which provided the opportunity for students to experience professional dance, develop their confidence as they tried something new, co-operate with others and as a whole group.

Drama

Drama is now taught within English and is a popular subject with our young people. Students take part in individual and group rôle play and occasionally in larger group productions which are performed to other young people, staff and support workers. Every year a group of drama students from



THE LEARNING CENTRE

University of Winchester, come to lead a series of drama sessions with the young people. The young people get the opportunity to work in a variety of styles and to take part in improvised performance.

Library

Swanwick Lodge has always maintained close liaison with the School Library Service and has recently benefited from their expertise in establishing a new, expanded library facility. This facility, which includes a filtered internet connection, is available to young people for research and reading both during the teaching day and for homework and leisure activities. Student and staff loans are administered by a computer programme which allows education and care staff to monitor student borrowing and to advise students on how best to expand their choice of reading material.

Music

Our fully fitted and refurbished music studio allows for young people to develop their creative skills and express themselves through the medium of music. They can do this through a variety of opportunities from DJ-ing and MC-ing, learning to play instruments and writing and recording their music using modern computer packages as well as traditional instruments. The recording studio is a very popular activity during leisure time giving everyone the chance to express themselves imaginative way.

Vocational Education

The government has embarked on a programme of transforming 14 – 19 education and training, to provide enhanced opportunities and enable young people to pursue their particular aspirations interests, and talents.

This means a better balance between academic and vocational subjects. Part of our development plan is to modify the building to enhance vocational provision in line the maintained sector.



We have recently modified the social skills room to deliver a Hospitality and Catering course and revised the vehicle maintenance workshop to include a multi skills approach to independent living covering basic plumbing, electrics and home maintenance.

Every Child Matters