

# THE DARLEY CENTRE

School Road  
Ashby  
Scunthorpe  
North Lincolnshire  
DN16 2TD

Tel: 01724 296263

Fax: 01724 281704

Email: [mike.burnett@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:mike.burnett@northlincs.gov.uk)

Website: [www.thedarleycentre.org.uk](http://www.thedarleycentre.org.uk)

Headteacher: Mr M Burnett

## Information for Pupils and Parents/Carers



## **QUESTIONS PUPILS ASK BEFORE THEY COME TO THE DARLEY CENTRE**

### **What is The Darley Centre?**

The Darley Centre is a Key Stage 2/3 Pupil Referral Unit for mainstream school pupils who have challenging behaviour and maybe in danger of permanent exclusion.

### **Where is The Darley Centre?**

The Darley Centre is in Ashby, behind the market in what was originally Ashby Infants School.

### **What does The Darley Centre aim to do?**

At The Darley Centre we aim to create a safe secure environment for youngsters to re-engage with the learning process through enjoyment, understanding, nurturing, stimulation and consistency.

### **How is The Darley Centre different from mainstream school?**

The Darley Centre caters for up to 24 KS3 Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils at any one time. Pupils are taught in small groups, usually between 6 and 8. KS2 caters for up to 5 pupils ranging from Year 4 to 6.

The Darley Centre is not allowed to keep pupils year after year like schools.

There are no secondary pupils in Year 10 and 11 at The Darley Centre, just Years 7, 8 and 9.

Some groups have a mixture of Year 7 and 8 or Year 8 and 9 pupils and KS2 have a mixture of Year 4, 5 and 6.

The whole school act like a Student Council and each group discuss topics of concern during target setting time and PSE lessons. Concerns are then brought to the Headteacher from individual groups.

Target sheets are sent home regularly and home always receives an End of Placement Report when pupils leave The Darley Centre.

### **What happens at Lunchtime and Breaktime?**

Pupils are closely supervised at break and lunch. At break all pupils are involved in supervised activities in the hall, ICT Room or classroom.

At lunch, all KS3 pupils eat in the dining room and KS2 in their own classroom. Some have pack-up. All pupils and parents/carers are encouraged to provide or pay for a healthy well balanced meal with no fizzy drinks or excesses of fats, sugars or carbohydrates.

Water is readily available throughout the day and pupils are encouraged to drink regularly.

### **How long will I be at The Darley Centre?**

The Darley Centre is a 'short stay school. Sometimes pupils attend for a set period of time and everyone knows that before they start.

Usually, we wait until the first KS3 Review which includes the pupil, parents/carers, staff from school, The Darley Centre and any other professionals that are supporting the child and/or family. This is usually the time when we agree on the length of placements.

Pupils are offered the opportunities to acquire and/or develop 'mainstream survival skills'.

The Darley Centre helps to establish the most appropriate long term Personalised Learning Programme for all its pupils. For most this will be to return to mainstream school; for a few it may be a fresh start in a different mainstream school; for one or two it maybe to attend a provision outside the authority and for others it maybe to attend a provision other than mainstream school.

Pupils, parents, school staff, Darley Centre staff and other professionals meet regularly to review pupils progress and set plans for the future.

### **Will I get any extra help if I am struggling with my work?**

All pupils attending The Darley Centre have their individual needs assessed and a programme is established, implemented and reviewed on a regular basis. Statemented pupils referred to the Darley Centre will need their mainstream school to review their statements before placement can begin.

### **How do I get to The Darley Centre and live more than 2 miles away?**

Pupils who are on a direct bus route are given a free bus pass. Pupils who live outside Scunthorpe, or have special circumstances arrive and depart by taxi (special circumstances are determined by Schools Transport Section at the Local Authority)

KS3 Pupils are encouraged to walk to school or cycle if this is deemed to be a safe option.

### **What happens if I'm late?**

Pupils are awarded points towards rewards for being on time. Being late means points are not earned and time maybe required to be made up from pupils free time at break or after school.

Lateness like absence is registered and regularly reviewed by the school and the Education Welfare Service.

### **What is this 'Points and Good Day Notes' thing?**

Pupils regularly negotiate a mixture of 3 work and behaviour targets for the week with their teachers. Pupils can earn a maximum of 50 points per day for achieving their targets, being on time and behaving appropriately at break time, lunch time and the way they leave the site at the end of each day, (an explanation of the target sheets and rewards system will be given to all pupils, parents/carers before placement begins).

### **What do I do with any jewellery/valuables that I bring into school?**

Our advice is always to leave any valuables and jewellery at home.

When jewellery or valuables are brought to The Darley Centre (e.g. mobiles, MP3 players, pocket games etc.) they are handed into class teachers and locked away and returned at the end of the day.

### **What happens if I don't do my work?**

Leaving The Darley Centre at 2.35pm is a privilege not a right. To earn that privilege pupils have to complete all work set. Work not completed before 2.35pm will be completed before pupils leave as long as parents/carers can be contacted and pupils can get home safely.

### **What equipment will I need?**

All pens, paper, pencils, rulers etc. are provided by The Darley Centre. Parents/carers are asked to make a £10 deposit to cover any non-accidental damage. Full or part deposits are refunded when pupils leave The Darley Centre.

### **How will my parents/carers know how I'm getting on at The Darley Centre?**

We like to be in regular contact with home. We ring and/or send 'Good Day' notes home when pupils have done well. We have an 'open door' policy so they can visit anytime (it is often better to ring first just in case the people they want to see are off site). We always ring home if pupils are more than 15 minutes late for school, because we care. We also contact home if there are any major concerns.

Pupils in teaching groups are taught by General Subject teachers like in Primary school so pupils and staff don't move from classroom to classroom every lesson.

Pupils are not allowed off the premises at break or lunch without being escorted by an adult.

Pupils in Year 9 follow the Wider Key Skills Curriculum and can leave the Darley Centre with up to 2¼ GCSE Grade B's.

### **How is The Darley Centre the same as mainstream schools?**

Pupils attending The Darley Centre wear the same uniform as they would at their mainstream school.

Pupils follow the same National Curriculum topics as they would in mainstream school. Unfortunately, we do not have the facilities for teaching Music or MFL..

Pupils are regularly tested in Maths, English, Science, ICT and Social Skills to monitor their progress and set new targets.

Assessment for Learning and Assessing Pupils Progress helps pupils understand how they can improve and what their next targets are.

Like mainstream schools the Darley Centre has its own website where all sorts of information is available. We encourage parents/carers to check the website regularly and recommend any improvements we might make.

### **What are the benefits of attending The Darley Centre?**

Pupils are not in a large class of 16, 24 or 30.

Pupils work within a framework of rights, responsibilities, rules and routines.

Staff have more time to work individually with pupils.

Pupils make choices about their behaviour. They are encouraged to realise the benefits of rewards for appropriate behaviour and accept the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

## Contact Information

If you would like any more information at any time please contact us on the telephone number below:

Telephone: 01724 296263

Email [mike burnett@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:mike.burnett@northlincs.gov.uk)

Website: [www.thedarleycentre.org.uk](http://www.thedarleycentre.org.uk)

*M. J. G. Burnett*

Headteacher

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**ESTABLISHED IN  
SEPTEMBER  
2004**