



## What is The Link?

The Link is a therapeutic educational service for secondary aged students who are unable to access mainstream education due to medical vulnerability. We specialise in supporting young people suffering from anxiety, depression and other mental health needs. Based in Manor Green School, the Centre of Excellence and one of the most successful special schools in the country, we share their state of the art facilities in Maidenhead.

The aim of The Link is to achieve the best outcomes for young people. Often our support is around building self-esteem to allow the young person to return to their mainstream setting, if deemed appropriate or preparation for a post-16 placement.

We successfully engage students who have not attended mainstream settings for long periods of time. We have a highly qualified team of staff who cater for the educational and mental health needs of vulnerable learners. Independent careers support and guidance, plus intensive working with the family, ensure that strong transitional arrangements on to college placements or into other educational settings are very successful.

*"I wish every school could be like this one because this school is amazing".*

*Link parent*

The Link is a setting that provides students with a future vision through its holistic care and education.

## What does The Link offer?

### Curriculum

- Bespoke timetables for every student
- Specialist teachers for English and Maths
- A curriculum offer that includes GCSE and Functional Skills qualifications in English and Maths, Science, PSHE, PE, Bronze and Silver Arts Award, Level 2 ICT and cooking for life skills
- Students have access to on line learning for any GCSE or KS3 course
- Half-termly progress reports shared with mainstream school and parents
- Regular review meetings to ensure the support is always appropriate

Medically vulnerable students can often struggle with on-line learning, especially those students with ADHD and ASD. We believe that face-to-face teaching is far better as interacting with students and their families ensures an holistic approach and offers more positive reinforcement and support for highly anxious students.

### Careers

Our Independent Careers Advisor:

- Completes skills and employability analysis of every student
- Conducts workshops on interview techniques
- Provides college liaison and arranges visits
- Explores apprenticeships
- Helps with CVs, college applications and takes students to open days/interviews.

## Therapeutic Support

The Link has a team of therapists who will meet with the students prior to them starting at The Link, this includes home visits as required. We offer individual and group sessions to all students each week as well the opportunity to have 1:1 counselling with a separate counsellor if needed. We have very strong links with Berkshire CAMHS services and use these to fully understand the needs of the student. The Boxall Profile and YP Core are used to assess every student's emotional progress. All students have a risk assessment and a care/medical plan

We offer therapeutic physio support and access to our hydro pool. Our therapists will also work with employed services such as the Youth Service, Drugs and Alcohol team or to ensure that the students are always given the most up to date information similar to those in mainstream placements.

*"We never thought we'd manage to get him back into full time every day school. Back to learning." Link parent*

Our therapists provide transition support over the summer holidays, visiting and counselling students to ensure successful transitions. Students placed into new settings or returning to previous placements receive a 6 week transition support package.

*"You have a feeling when you come here – this is the place you can feel safe."*

## Parents

Our holistic approach ensures our parents are supported as well as our students. Daily assistance and liaison is given to families to help sustain placements. This includes:

- Anxiety workshops and 1:1 support
- Individual counselling
- Home visits
- ADHD support
- Group support and workshops
- Help with EHCP applications
- CAMHS support and follow-up
- Gender Identification support
- Signposting parents for the best areas of support from different services

*“All staff treat us like a family.”*

## Multi Professional Liaison

We maintain regular contact with the mainstream school to ensure the best outcome for the young person. We work very closely with multi professionals including CAMHS, Social care and Family Support Teams, Local Authority SEN Teams and Virtual schools to provide an all-round support service.

The Deputy Headteacher of Manor Green School is also SENCo for The Link and brings a wealth of experience in supporting assessments for the student. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead participates in multi professional meetings including PEPs, Annual Reviews, CiC reviews, CIN meetings and CP case conferences.



To find out how we can help you or to arrange a visit please contact:

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## The Link

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## A Therapeutic Educational Setting for Secondary Students



*“This school made me feel better,  
made my depression feel better.  
Everything just seemed to fall in to  
place.” Alex, Year 11 student*