



FIRST STEPS TOGETHER

EDUCATION

The Hub

Our school

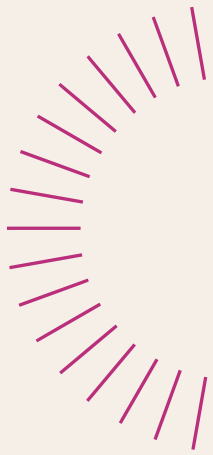
About **us**

The Hub is our unique vocational provision for learners aged 14-16 in specialist education, with a primary focus on learners with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs.

The Hub provides a structured, safe and aspirational learning environment where learners are supported to re-engage with education, develop practical vocational skills and make sustained progress towards adulthood.

The provision is designed to meet the needs of learners who benefit from a smaller, relational setting with high levels of structure, consistency and adult support.

The Hub places equal emphasis on academic learning, vocational development, emotional wellbeing and personal growth, enabling learners to achieve positive long-term outcomes.



Aims and **ethos**

The Hub will give students and families a spark of hope by aiming to:

SUPPORT

Support emotional regulation, resilience and behaviour

PROMOTE

Promote independence, confidence and British values

ALIGN

Align vocational competence and employability skills

RE-ENGAGE

Re-engage learners through relevant, meaningful education

KICK-START

Kick-start preparation for adulthood



The Hub can accommodate up to 30 learners in total, aged 14-16. Learners typically present with SEMH needs and may have experienced difficulties engaging in larger or less structured educational settings.

Placement decisions are informed by individual needs, risk assessments and Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC plan) outcomes where applicable.

The provision operates within a trauma-informed, inclusive and aspirational ethos, recognising that many learners with SEMH have experienced barriers to learning.

Staff maintain high expectations while providing the appropriate support, adjustments and therapeutic approaches required for learners to succeed.



A clear **curriculum**

Learners access a 24-hour per week on-site timetable, delivered entirely within The Hub.

VOCATIONAL CURRICULUM – 16 HOURS

Learners engage in structured vocational learning across the following areas:

- Bricklaying
- Plastering
- Woodwork
- Fitness

Learners rotate through all vocational areas, enabling them to sample each discipline, develop a broad skills base and identify strengths, interests and career aspirations.

Learning is practical, sequential and skills-focused, supporting sustained engagement and progression.

Vocational learning develops:



PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL SKILLS



**COMMUNICATION AND
TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS**



**PROBLEM SOLVING AND
TEAMWORK SKILLS**



**WORKPLACE BEHAVIOURS AND
EXPECTATIONS**

CORE CURRICULUM – 8 HOURS

Learners receive 8 hours per week of core learning, delivered on site within The Hub.

This includes:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| • English | 3 lessons a week |
| • Mathematics | 3 lessons a week |
| • Science | 2 lessons a week |
| • Careers education & PHSE | 2 lessons a week |

Core subjects are contextualised and embedded where possible within vocational learning to increase relevance, motivation and retention.

This integrated approach supports learners to apply literacy, numeracy and employability skills in real-world contexts, in line with Ofsted's expectations for a coherent, ambitious curriculum.



Movement matters

The Hub includes an on-site fitness studio available for structured and recreational use.

The fitness studio forms an integral part of the Hub's wellbeing and therapeutic offer and supports learners' physical health, emotional regulation and mental wellbeing.

Evidence-based research demonstrates that regular physical activity significantly benefits learners with SEMH by supporting emotional regulation, reducing anxiety and improving mood and concentration.

Access to the fitness studio supports learners by:



**REDUCING STRESS AND
DYSREGULATION**



**IMPROVING WELLBEING,
CONFIDENCE AND SELF ESTEEM**



**PROVIDING HEALTHY
COPING STRATEGIES**



**PROMOTING SELF-DISCIPLINE,
MOTIVATION AND GOAL-SETTING**



**ENCOURAGING POSITIVE PEER
INTERACTIONS AND TEAMWORK**

Use of the fitness studio is supervised by trained staff and planned in line with individual needs, risk assessments and support plans.



An **informed** approach

The Hub adopts a trauma-informed, relational and therapeutic approach to behaviour, consistent with current best practice for supporting learners with social, emotional and mental health needs.

At First Steps Together, behaviour is understood as a form of communication.

Our staff focus on identifying underlying causes, teaching self-regulation skills and supporting positive behaviour change.



Key principles include:

- Clear, consistent routines and expectations that promote emotional safety
- High staff presence and strong, trusting relationships
- Positive behaviour support strategies focused on prevention and de-escalation
- Restorative approaches that support, reflection, accountability and relationship repair#

Anticipating **adulthood**

The Hub is fully aligned with Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) outcomes and supports learners across the four key areas.



EMPLOYMENT

Development of vocational skills, employability behaviours, teamwork, communication and work readiness



INDEPENDENT LIVING

Life skills including cooking, organisation, self-management and personal responsibility



COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Building confidence, social skills and positive relationships within a structured group environment



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Promoting physical health, emotional regulation, self-care and healthy routines

Learners are supported to understand their strengths, interests and aspirations, enabling informed and realistic progression planning.



Environment is everything

The Hub is purpose-designed to support vocational, academic and pastoral learning and includes:



VOCATIONAL WORKSHOP AREAS

So every trade has a designated area for space and clarity



MAIN CLASSROOM

Setting up core subjects and group learning to thrive



FITNESS STUDIO

For working on physical wellbeing and regulation



COMMUNAL LEARNING KITCHEN

To grow and develop food preparation skills and enjoy food



SPACE FOR STAFF

Rooms and facilities for staff security, admin and wellbeing

The environment is structured, calm and well-maintained, supporting learners to feel safe, respected and ready to learn.



Planning for **progression**

The Hub focuses on achieving positive, sustained outcomes for learners.

Through a balanced curriculum, therapeutic support and strong relationships, learners develop the skills, confidence and resilience required for adulthood. Progression routes may include:



COLLEGE OR FURTHER EDUCATION



**APPRENTICESHIPS OR
VOCATIONAL TRAINING**



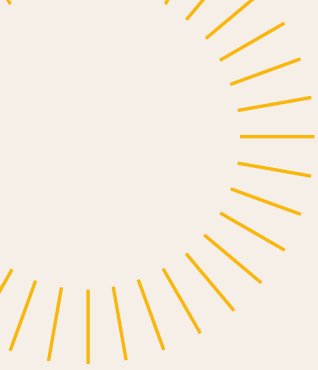
SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS



**EMPLOYMENT OR
SUPPORTED PATHWAYS**

All progression planning is personalised and aligned with individual needs, aspirations and EHC plan outcomes.





FIRST STEPS TOGETHER

FOR EVERY JOURNEY

Contact us



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