

Contact Information

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Provision Lead – Nikki Lucas

Tel: 07946266107

Thrive Hubs

Woodhall School Hub

Ali – 07375 443987

Shepherd School Hub

Stella – 07375 443988

Holywell School Hub

Debbie – 07375 443989

Little Reddings School Hub

Fiona – 07375 443986

*please note the Hubs are separate from the schools and the main Acorn office should be the first point of contact.



The Acorn Centre
29 Lincoln Field
Bushey Hall Drive
Bushey
WD23 2ES

DSPL | Delivering Special
Provision Locally
Achieving quality outcomes

What is the Acorn Centre?

The Acorn Centre is an alternative education provision based on a children's farm. It is led by a primary head teacher and the daily running of the provision is the responsibility of the Provision Lead who is an experienced qualified teacher. Alongside the provision at the farm we also have 4 THRIVE hubs across the DSPL area of Watford, Three Rivers, Bushey and Radlett

The facility is for primary aged children who are at risk of exclusion or who have been permanently excluded from schools within the DSPL 9 area. We also offer some outreach in schools.

The provision supports and provides services for children with SEMH difficulties. This is an umbrella term for children who demonstrate difficulties with emotional regulation and/or social interaction and/or are experiencing mental health problems. These difficulties may be displayed through challenging, disruptive or dangerous behaviour. The problem could also manifest as anxiety or depression, oppositional / demand avoidance problems and more severe conduct issues including aggression and self-harm.

The purpose of the provision is to promote positive relationships and experiences for the child. This may include developing self-esteem, social skills and the ability to demonstrate socially acceptable behaviour.

Acorn centre Aims:

We embrace the individuality of each and every child within a warm safe and nurturing space. Where the child's voice is listened to, understood and valued. Through safe boundaries we provide a sense of security and improved emotional well-being to them.

As part of our commitment to the child we also encourage positive relationships based on mutual respect, between parent/carers, school and the child through modelling fun, play based activities.

The aim of the provision is to provide a holistic, multi-agency approach to support each child and their family. This means the children learn within and from their environment and learn through play. The provision provides a respite assessment place for 1-3 terms and pupils stay on roll at their current school if they have one with schools fully involved and informed throughout their placement at the Centre.

Staff are trained in using the THRIVE approach. This is an emotional wellbeing programme where an assessment is made and activities provided to support gaps in emotional well-being.

Family Advocate – Layla 07950 900442






Our Family Advocate will work with parents/ carers to ensure that there is 'joined up thinking' to support the child and the family. Parents will be expected to engage with the family advocate this could include weekly meetings and parenting workshops. Our family advocate has a wealth of knowledge about local services and can signpost you to these whilst also there to have a chat about any concerns you have.

Play Practitioner - Jo 01923 800222

The Play Practitioner works with a child to help them gain insight and understanding of their experiences, recognising that a child's behaviour has meaning. The benefits of which include increasing the child's emotional resilience, facilitating change and developing coping strategies while decreasing problematic behaviours. The use of the Play Practitioner will be discussed and your child may have to be on a waiting list for this. Our Play Practitioner will not work with a child who is receiving any type of play therapy/ CAMHs support.

DSPL9 have adopted a tiered approach to supporting social, emotional and behavioural needs in Primary Schools. The aim of this approach is to support schools, children and families with a focus on early intervention to ultimately reduce the number of children at significant risk of, or who have been permanently excluded.

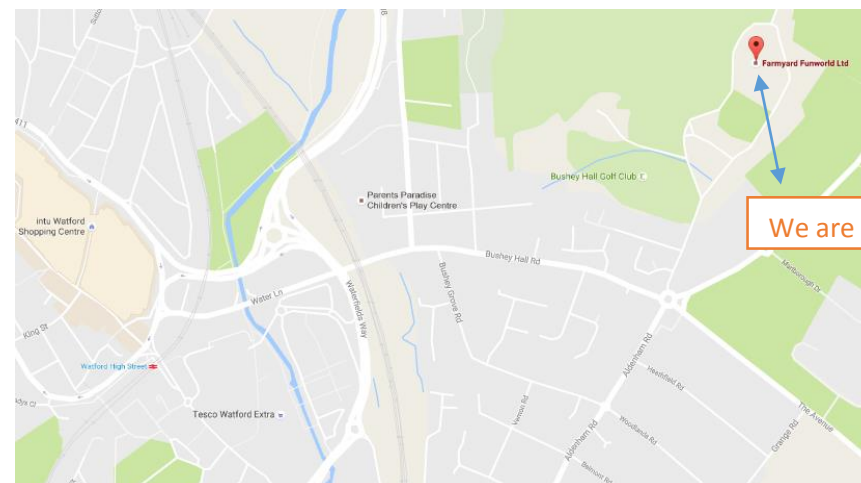
Model of Behaviour Support in DSPL9

- Tier 1  Within school
- Tier 2  Peer support
- Tier 3  Specialist outreach
- Tier 4  Alternative provision for children at significant risk of permanent exclusion
- Tier 5  5 Provision for children who have been permanently excluded

The Acorn centre comes in at Tier 4 & and Tier 5 of this model.

The day at The Acorn centre varies for individuals. The morning THRIVE Hubs run from 9:15- 12 and the afternoon Hubs run from 12:45-2:45. We also run a farm session once a week for parent/carer and child. This is to enable parents/carers to drop off at and to collect their child from the Acorn Centre and to do the same for any siblings at different schools. At Tier 4 children will remain on roll at their primary school with schools required to be fully involved throughout their placement at the centre/ Hub. Staff will endeavour to attend meetings relating to the children they are responsible for and for supporting their reintegration.

Where is the Acorn Centre?



From Watford town centre ring road, take the exit onto Water Lane, leading onto Bushey Hall Road, then take the 1st exit on the roundabout which will take you up towards Farnyard Fun World – where we are located.

THRIVE Hubs

Little Reddings Primary School

Woodhall Primary School

Holywell Primary School

Shepherd Primary School