



The Acorn Centre

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Delivering Special
Provision Locally

Let's help every child
thrive 



The Acorn Centre

What is 'The Acorn Centre'?

The Acorn Centre is a '**Primary Behaviour Support Provision**' under the leadership of Warrendell school, based in South Oxhey. The Provision is overseen by Executive Head Teacher – Danni Harte. The daily running of the provision is the responsibility of Sarah Kenny, Provision Lead.

Who does 'The Acorn Centre' support?

The Acorn Centre offer a **short term package/block of support** for Primary aged children at risk of exclusion or permanently excluded from schools within the DSPL 9 area of Watford, Three Rivers, Bushey and Radlett.

The provision provides interventions for pupils with **SEMH** needs that run **in parallel to their school provision**. 'SEMH' is an umbrella term for children who demonstrate difficulties with social interaction, emotional regulation and/or are experiencing mental health challenges.

Pupils' needs may present as challenging, detrimental, disruptive or dangerous behaviours in their mainstream school settings. Their needs could also manifest as anxiety or depression, oppositional/ demand avoidance or more severe conduct issues including aggression, physical behaviours and/or self-harm.

What is the purpose of 'The Acorn Centre' support?

The purpose of our support is to be a supportive partner for school teams, offering advice and recommendations for strategies to implement in school, based on our observations and work with children; ultimately to reduce each pupils' risk of exclusion.

Our '**Acorn behaviour support packages**' aim to promote positive relationships and experiences for each pupil. This may include a focus on developing self-esteem, social skills and the ability to demonstrate socially acceptable and positive learning behaviours.

There are various different support packages available, based on the needs of each individual pupil, which are discussed and allocated to schools who are successful at Tier 4 panel. The initial packages of support offer various 'in reach' or 'outreach' support, SEMH focus group sessions and parent - child group sessions.

What support is available for schools and their children at risk of exclusion?

There are various different support packages available, based on the needs of each individual pupil, which are discussed and allocated to schools who are successful at Tier 4 panel.

The initial packages of support offer various 'in reach' or 'outreach' support, SEMH focus group sessions and parent - child group sessions.

Each Acorn session is tailored to meet the needs of the pupils accessing support. The team work closely and collaboratively with each school, including their SENDCOs, Class teachers, teaching assistants, and parents/carers, to ensure the sessions are child-centred, educational and fun.

Throughout the duration of each block of support, **schools** involved will:

- ✓ remain responsible for their pupils (*who remain on role at their setting*)
- ✓ continue to provide pupils with their entitlement to their education at their setting,
- ✓ be provided support by an allocated **Behaviour Support Practitioner (BSP)**, who will work alongside staff – particularly the school SENDCO, class teachers and LSAs,
- ✓ be given advice and suggestions to implement at school,
- ✓ be provided with a 'Mid – Review' and 'End of Block' report,
- ✓ attend meetings to remain in continuous contact with The **Acorn Centre Team** to work collaboratively to meet each pupil's needs.
- ✓ liaise weekly with the Acorn Team.

DSPL9 have adopted a tiered approach to supporting SEMH (Social, emotional and behavioral) needs in their Primary schools.

Tier 1



Ordinarily Available Provision within mainstream settings – to meet Universal/Plus, SEMH needs in the classroom.

[Click here – Ordinarily Available Provision Document](#)

[Click here - Local offer – Service directory](#)

Tier 2



TBC - The DSPL9 team are currently exploring options for what support can be offered at Tier 2 – This will be discussed and launched in due course.



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Tier 3



Specialist child specific outreach interventions – Provided by the Chessbrook ESC team

(Referral completion requirement to access this support) – [Click here](#)

Intervention opportunities - **Specialist Advice, Early Intervention, Reflect and Relaunch or Transition support.**



Tier 4



The Acorn Centre - Primary Behaviour Support Provision

Specialist/Plus SEMH behaviour needs – pupils who are at significant risk of exclusion.

(Referral completion requirement to access this support + Panel approval/acceptance)



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Tier 5

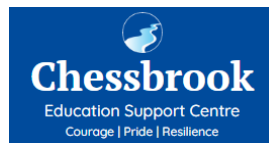


If a child is permanently excluded, The Acorn Centre can provide day 6 (3 for CLA) provision until the Governors' meeting – For Primary aged pupils.

Tier 4 referral process and criteria:

Before making a referral to Tier 4, please ensure that your setting has followed the tiered system of support and that the pupil meets the eligibility criteria. It is essential that the 'Graduated Response' has been fully implemented, as this will be reviewed when the pupil is considered for support at Panel.

Criteria Before Making a Tier 4 Referral:



- Pupils must have previously accessed [Tier 3](#) support from **Chessbrook ESC**.
- Schools must have completed **at least two ADPR cycles** following the end of Chessbrook support, with clear evidence of both **implementation** and **impact**.

If these requirements are not met, a Tier 4 referral should not proceed.

[\[Click here to refer to Chessbrook.\]](#)

Tier 4 Referral – Required Documentation and Expectations:

When submitting a Tier 4 referral, the following must be included:

- ☐ Fully completed **referral form** – detailing the support implemented and its impact on the pupil.
- ☐ Chessbrook End of Support Report
- ☐ Therapeutic Tree or Iceberg Analysis
- ☐ Early Prognosis Document
- ☐ Anxiety Mapping
- ☐ Risk Reduction Plan
- ☐ EHCNA (if completed)
- ☐ EHCP (if in place)
- ☐ CPOMS record
- ☐ LHNf applications (if completed or granted)
- ☐ Reports from external professionals (e.g. EY Advisory Team, SCLA Team, School Nurse, EBSA, ESMA)
- ☐ ADPR paperwork – Personal Support Plans.

Make a referral:

To make a referral – please follow the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/a9iK3aS01r>



Tier 4 Panel deadlines and dates

There will be 6 panels held throughout the next academic year - 2025-26:

Panel referral deadlines	Panel dates
Friday 19 th September 25	Thursday 9 th October 25
Friday 7 th November 25	Thursday 27 th November 25
Friday 23 rd January 26	Thursday 5 th February 26
Friday 6 th March 26	Thursday 26 th March 26
Friday 24 th April 26	Thursday 14 th May 26
Friday 12 th June 26	Thursday 25 th June 26

Once a referral has been made, we will contact your setting to **observe pupils** prior to the Panel date.

The Tier 4 Panel:

During panel discussions, attendees will review each pupil's needs and determine the appropriate allocation of support.

- If a pupil is **not offered support**, the panel will provide advice and recommendations for next steps.
- ✓ If a pupil **is offered support**, your setting will receive an offer letter outlining the agreed provision.

Please note: Each school and The Acorn Centre Team will work **collaboratively and in parallel** throughout a **term block of support**.



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Post panel provision available

(Appropriate allocation will be decided at panel)

Out Reach – 1:1

- ✓ 1 x Termly block of Tier 4 Behaviour Support
- ✓ A BSP will be allocated to work 1:1 with each pupil.
- ✓ Pupils will attend at their usual setting.
- ✓ BSP will support pupil alongside an LSA/TA
- ✓ 1 hour per session. (Maximum of 2 hours per week)

Block includes:

- Initial team meeting – BSP, SENDCO, Class teacher, LSAs)
- Getting to know you sessions
- 1:1 sessions in school with pupil, BSP and TA.
- Mid review meeting
- End Block meeting
- Mid Review and End of block reports
- Transition support - prior to closure

In Reach – 1:1

- ✓ 1 x Termly block of Tier 4 Behaviour Support
- ✓ A BSP will be allocated to work 1:1 with each pupil.
- ✓ Pupils will attend at The Acorn Centre site, in South Oxhey.
- ✓ 1 hour per session. (Maximum of 2 hours per week)

Block includes:

- Initial team meeting – BSP, SENDCO, Class teacher, LSAs)
- Induction session (parent/TA and pupil to attend together)
- 1:1 sessions on site, with pupil and BSP
- Mid review meeting
- End Block meeting
- Mid Review and End of block reports
- Transition support - prior to closure

Acorn and Oak – Parent and child group sessions.

- ✓ 1 x Termly block of Tier 4 Behaviour Support
- ✓ Parent and Child will be invited to attend our Acorn Centre, in South Oxhey
- ✓ The family will be supported by our team of BSPs during the sessions
- ✓ 1 session per week – Fridays only – 1.5 hour session

Block includes:

- Initial tour with parent and child – Meet the team
- Getting to know you sessions.
- Fun and collaborative sessions to encourage parent and child attunement, engagement and team work.
- Parent only time – to reflect and support one another.
- Ongoing communication between the Acorn Support Team and schools.
- End of Block Report

Kits and Squirrels – SEMH focus group sessions.

- ✓ 1 x Termly block of Tier 4 Behaviour Support
- ✓ Specialist Teacher and BSP input within a group of 4-5 pupils.
- ✓ 4 sessions per week – 2 hours

Block includes:

- ✓ Initial team meeting – Specialist teacher, SENDCO, Class teacher, LSAs)
- ✓ Tour of the setting with parent and child
- ✓ Induction session (TA and pupil to attend together)
- ✓ Group sessions on site, with specialist teacher and BSP
- ✓ Weekly communication between school and Acorn Support Specialist Teacher
- ✓ Transition support - with reintegration guidance.
- ✓ End of block report

Child Counselling Sessions

- ✓ 1 x 20 week block of Tier 4 Behaviour Support (reviewed after 6 weeks + a mid-review)
- ✓ Initial meeting/phone call with parent and school.
- ✓ 1 x 1:1 session per week with our qualified Integrative Child Counsellor – 50 minutes
- ✓ Sessions are delivered through various therapeutic approaches such as play, talk and 7 forms of Art therapy.
- ✓ Sessions to be held at pupil's school setting (*unless specified otherwise at panel)
- ✓ Weekly liaison between Counsellor and school staff
- ✓ End of block report



The Acorn Centre

CONTACT US:

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