

THE PLACE

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL



Council for
Learning Outside the Classroom



November 2021 |



***“Happy hearts and happy faces,
happy play in grassy places, that
was how, in ancient ages,
children grew to kings and sages”
- ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON***

Welcome to the prospectus for The PLACE Independent School. This guide aims to give prospective students and all those who care about them sufficient information to understand the school, its ethos, and approach to learning.

For more information, please contact The PLACE Independent School

01949 844440 Or email: The Head teacher – Charlotte Hardy

charlotte@theplaceindependentschool.co.uk

Welcome to the PLACE Independent School

The PLACE Independent School is an Ofsted Registered Independent Day School providing a creative and individualised approach to learning for young people aged 7-18.

We specialise in providing a unique educational experience for young people with complex attachment experiences and past trauma. In KS1 and KS2, we follow the Primary National Curriculum, planned and assessment by Primary Teachers but with an individualized approach to enable individual children's curiosity and interests.

In KS4 we incorporate adventurous activities and animal-based learning, we offer a bespoke experience for each child. Our school is set in beautiful rural surroundings of the Vale of Belvoir, based over two farm sites, enabling young people to learn in indoor as well as outdoor environments. The PLACE Independent school has livestock, woodlands and outdoor spaces for young people to feel regulated within their environment, leading to an enhanced learning experience where they feel safe and secure in their surroundings.



The PLACE Independent School was set up to meet the needs of young people who find it difficult to achieve in mainstream environments where their emotional and developmental needs cannot be met.

We have provided outdoor learning experiences for young people since 2014 and all of us at The PLACE Independent School work with young people in line with the principles of Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy and attachment theory to help young people learn, grow and develop.

Ethos-

We believe that no young person should be failed as a direct result of their past experiences and complex histories, and we are committed to helping them overcome adversity and provide a positive influence upon their current and future lives.



Children Referred to our School

Most children referred to our service will exhibit behavioural difficulties and may have been exposed to harmful experiences that require a broader therapeutic approach in their learning environment. As such, most children struggle to thrive in a traditional mainstream environment and require a bespoke approach. As an attachment sensitive service, we utilise PLACE principles (Play, Love, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy) to help meet the needs of children who are often at risk of coming into care, are in care, or have been placed for permanence (e.g. Adoption).

For many of the children at the School, the barriers to learning relate to broader issues such as their emotional maturity, sensitivity to authority figures, self-esteem, attachment needs, self-regulation, and the visible dynamics of behavioural challenge.

Our Mission is to:

- ☐ Develop emotional insight and self-management within a learning setting
- ☐ Promote peer relationships and the skills to manage these successfully
- ☐ Prepare young people for future success without limits
- ☐ Manage, re-direct and overcome challenging behaviour to promote individual change.



Our strength-based approach of PLACE (Playfulness, Love, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy) guides all of our work with young people so they can build relationships and positive attachments through which they benefit in our school. This working model enables young people to achieve their potential and overcome past trauma and difficulties, something which is often misunderstood within more mainstream educational settings. Our ethos of 'Catch Them Being Good' enables young people to build self-esteem, trust and end cycles of shame which previously influenced negative patterns of behaviour.

Our core PLACE principles and attachment-based learning provides a safe, nurturing environment with key anchor points helping learners feel safe. Safety is created in our community by predictability and predictability is created by consistent behaviours. The structure of the day includes- Meet and greet, breakfast club, engagement, support by key identified adults, keeping young people in mind, routine and predictability, fun and nurture.

Our passion is to support young people in a nurturing environment ensuring that they are able to engage in education and learning and start their journey of recovery. Therefore, enabling them to progress educationally and achieve their potential. We utilise high levels of staffing to ensure safety and help young people manage their daily challenges.

The PLACE Independent School is deliberately rural and has many unbuilt natural areas ready for development. We want young people to explore, learn, develop and help create lasting projects within the school environment.

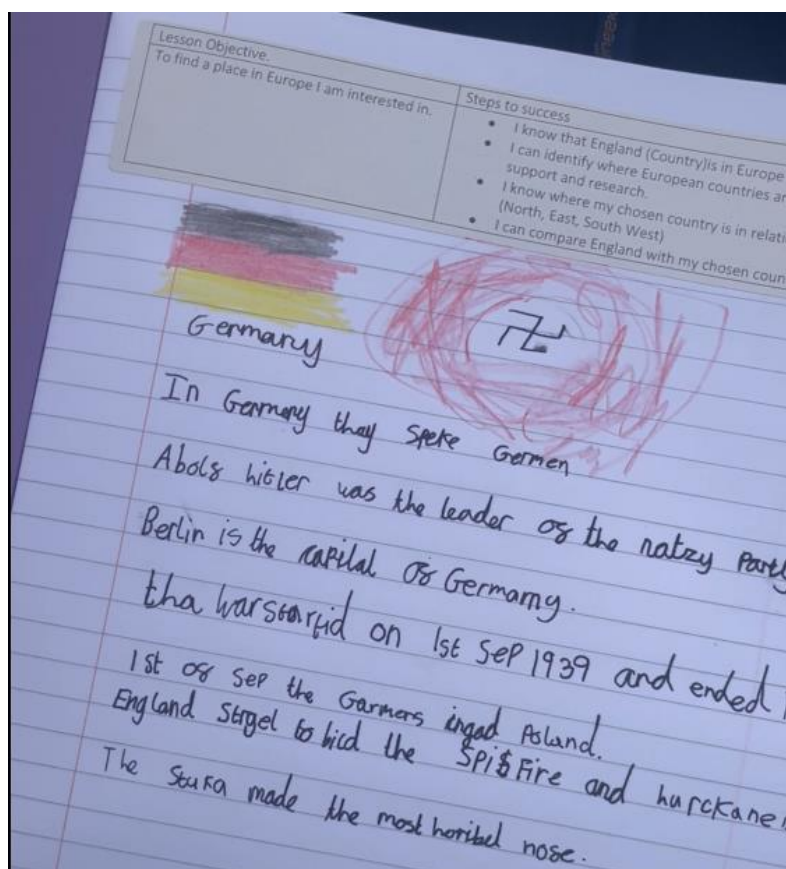
Teaching and Learning

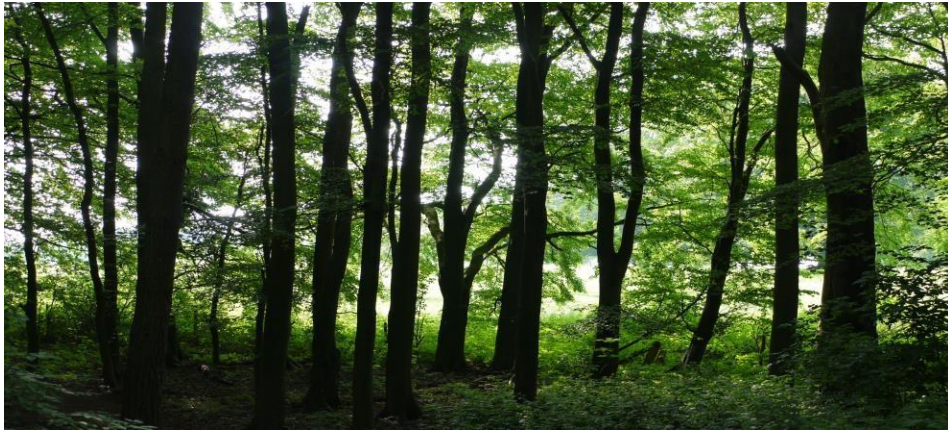
We at The PLACE Independent School believe that all young people should be enabled to achieve their potential regardless of whether they are in a typical mainstream education. We aim to support young people to access a broad curriculum of studies. The PLACE Independent School has a particular focus on young people with complex attachment experiences and histories, past trauma and patterns of behaviour which cannot be accommodated within more orthodox educational settings.

Our highly qualified team of staff bring learning to life; their multisensory approach compliments our alternative curriculum, developing meaningful cross-curricular links. The teaching team work to understand our learner's attachment style and so can adapt the teaching approach accordingly.

Our learners have individualised timetables focusing on their own learning needs that follow the National Curriculum in Primary and working towards a variety of BTECs, AQA Awards, Functional Skills, and GCSEs in Upper School. All our Young People are very able but need that extra sparkle and shine in order to achieve their very best and make accelerated progress. Some young people have been out of school a long time or have not been able to access education. Our team utilise the extensive grounds of the school and access to outdoor learning facilities to use creative ways to engage reluctant learners.

In lower school our teachers inspire and engage pupils, mixing individual 1:1 and small group classroom learning opportunities depending on their need and level or direct adult support required. Young people will study the core curriculum of Maths, English and Environmental science in a mix of indoor and outdoor classroom environments.





We cater for every child whatever their interest or yet-to-be discovered passions. Childhood is about discovering new things and on doing what you love.

We help your children find their passions and with this a love of learning and to grow skills for personal development.

The school animals help create opportunities for young people to demonstrate and acquire empathy and trust, build self-esteem and relationships.



Our ponies, alpacas, pigs and chickens also help provide routine and anchors points, hands on opportunities to learn about science and the natural world. Therapeutically the animals also provide a narrative which mirrors some of the experiences of our young people; our ponies and other animals are rehomed from rescue centers and the young people enjoy helping them recover. For some young people working with the animals provides the first steps of trust and increased self-esteem.

The Journey - Moving on

We want our leavers to be confident, capable and compassionate young people. Developing a well-rounded individual isn't easy. At the PLACE Independent School, we set high expectations of manners, morals, effort and application within the PLACE model. By the time young people leave us we hope the expectations and motivations will be driven by the young people having been supported and motivated by our staff. This will set their path to maturity as they transition onto their next stage of education or early adult life, being prepared emotionally and intellectually.

We utilise a variety of assessment to measure pupils academic progress as well as levels of emotional literacy, self-esteem and readiness to move on to new settings. This ranges from Standardised tests to measure progress to SPOT tools to monitor social, emotional and mental health.

We see our school as the stepping-stone for some young people to set the foundation for a love of learning and an ability to access a curriculum and be able to enjoy and achieve with other learners. For some young people we hope that time spent at our school will enable them, in the future, to move to alternative educational settings, for others our hope is that they can achieve success with us, continuing into key stage four, which ensures them the best possible future options for early adult life.



Our Team/ Supportive Committee arrangements.

We have a strong team of teaching staff, teaching assistants, school support staff led by a strong senior leadership team and dedicated head teacher. We have an experienced School proprietor that provides scrutiny across the school and helps the school develop to enable young people to reach their potential.

Come and Visit

Come and visit us. "Arrive as a visitor and leave as a friend"

The PLACE Independent School has a bespoke setting and offering for young people. We believe that our Therapeutic approach to education and the rural setting, with our personalised ethos offers a bespoke package for each young person that is educated with us.

We subscribe to W. B. Yeats' words:

**"education is not just filling a bucket,
but lighting a fire"**

We believe that children's school days should be some of the happiest of their lives and our ethos of play provides young people with a love of coming to school.

In our November 2021, our Ofsted report noted that our young people related to the hands on the canopy of the tree on our school logo as being the hands of the school family. In a 'rap' also written for Ofsted, one of our young people stated that "teachers have hope" and another young person reported that "someone will notice" if you need support at the school.

Admissions

Our school admits young people from the ages of 7-18 years who would benefit from a more innovative full-time educational experience. We specialise in teaching young people who have complex attachment histories and past trauma.

For admission enquiries please contact Charlotte Hardy at:

charlotte@theplaceindependentschool.co.uk 01949 844440

Location

Both sites of The PLACE Independent School are in the rural grounds of Belvoir estate.

Our address is:

Lower School (7-12)
Hill Farm
Belvoir Road
Bottesford
NG13 0EA

Upper School (12-18)
Hill Farm
7 Jericho Lane
Barkstone
NG13 0HF