



Independent School

DFE No: 890/6010

Prospectus 2021-2022

Tower Learning Centre  
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Find us on Facebook

Tower Learning Centre is a DfE registered Independent School in Blackpool. We offer Full Time and Dual Roll Provision for those who have difficulty in accessing mainstream education for a variety of reasons.

Heateacher: Kimberly McCormack

Proprietor: Kathryn Towers



## Welcome from the Proprietor

"I am the founder of Tower Learning Centre. As a secondary school teacher with over 35 years teaching experience, I have a passion for helping students to reach their full potential. My teaching career includes many years in a secondary school in Torquay as an RE and English teacher; Head of RE and IT before moving to Blackpool and teaching in a local school before setting up the tuition business in 2004.

The purpose of establishing the tuition business was to develop my passion for helping students who struggled with their general studies, confidence, motivation, bullying, specific SEN needs, disengagement and many other reasons for needing extra support. The Centre offered an individual approach where every student has a personalised programme of study in agreement with and supported by the parents/ guardians/ provider.

As the business developed it became apparent that there was a need to help the local community and offer daytime learning opportunities as well. This has now evolved into becoming a Registered Independent School, catering for those who are at danger of becoming permanently excluded from their current provision. The individual approach of care continues although the content of the curriculum has now expanded. We want to offer all pupils a nurturing and understanding environment to help them re-engage with education and achieve qualifications at a level that is appropriate. "



Kathryn Towers

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Towers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Head Teacher's Welcome

At Tower Learning Centre we give the opportunity for all our pupils to thrive in a nurturing learning environment. Although many of our pupils have had bad experiences of education, many have been close to permanent exclusion in previous placements or have missed out on education for various reasons. Our aim is to give pupils a fresh start at education and help change their perception of education and encourage them to see the value in it.

We strive to build our pupil confidence and resilience, offer encouragement, help them to aspire and achieve and to become the best version of themselves.

Having worked in Alternative Provision settings for almost 10 years I have experienced young people from a number of different backgrounds. I am extremely proud to lead a team that is committed to pupils' well-being, achieving high standards and providing the very best opportunities for all in our care. Staff work hard to deliver a rich and challenging curriculum; to prepare pupils for further education; and to help them acquire the skills and enthusiasm needed to embrace the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. This continues to be recognised beyond school and into their future lives.

I enjoy taking an active role in the education of our pupils and will take the time to get to know each of them personally, being approachable should they need any support from myself. I want all pupils to feel safe, supported and secure at Tower Learning Centre in order to give them the best chance to grow and succeed during their time with us.

I look forward to welcoming new pupils to our school and having positive relationships with parents, carers and providers.



Kim McCormack

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. McCormack', with a stylized flourish at the end.

## *Values and Ethos*

We pride ourselves on being a nurturing and inclusive setting. Being a small provision allows us to help our pupils grow academically and also educate them on how to be a member of a community by instilling our core values, which are things we should each do in our everyday lives. We hope to promote this, along with promoting all British Values, with the following:

### *Learning*

We value inquiry and intellectual growth of all students and staff, recognising their different learning needs, encouraging them to be creative, engaged and lifelong learners. We encourage staff with personal development and encourage pupils to find a passion for learning.

### *Diversity*

We value the acceptance and fair treatment of all people in our community. Social justice and compassion are highly regarded and actively pursued. We encourage the development of a wide range of curricular and cross-curricular opportunities throughout the School to help facilitate individual talents and interests. We want our students to be accepting and feel accepted, no matter their background, religion, sexuality or any other characteristics that make them who they are as a person.

### *Integrity*

We value strength of character, honesty and courage, guided by a strong moral code of behaviour.

### *Aiming High*

Nobody is born knowing how to do everything. Learning is a life-long experience and as long as you are trying and aiming to be the best you can, then you are succeeding. Showing resilience when you find things difficult is a lifelong skill.

### *Taking Pride*

Knowing you have tried your best and achieved all you can, is a reason to be proud, as is being kind to those around you. We want all of our pupils to have pride in everything they do and are able to look in the mirror and be proud of who they are and all they have achieved.

## Admissions

### **Dual Registration**

Mainstream Schools can directly refer students to Tower Learning Centre Independent School to support with behaviour or with those who are at risk of permanent exclusion. We also accept students who may need placements for support for anxiety and other emotional issues.

### **Full Time Provision (single roll)**

Pupils can be accepted on roll for their full time education at Tower Learning Centre Independent School.

### **Looked after Children Placements (LAC)**

We are experienced in working with LAC learners who are unable to access mainstream education for a number of reasons. This is paid for by their Local Authority or agency that refers the student.

### **Other Referrals**

We look at referrals on an individual basis and if we are able to support the needs of a pupil then a place may be offered. Cost of provision will be agreed before the pupil starts with us.

Tower Learning Centre Independent School aims to begin enrolment of a pupil within 7 days of initial contact with the referring agency, subject to completion of all required paperwork and agreements.

### **Additional Needs**

Tower Learning Centre Independent School accepts students from a wide range of backgrounds, including those who may have additional needs. More information available on request.

### **Curriculum**

Tower Learning Centre Independent School has designed a curriculum that is engaging and designed to meet the needs of all pupils. We prepare our pupils to the best of our ability, offering not only academic subjects but also enrichment activities which provide our young people with a chance to try out new skills in the hope we help them succeed in their future lives but also find activities that they enjoy and explore as part of self-care.

From September 2021 our curriculum has been designed in collaboration with teaching staff and the Senior Leadership Team. In the future we would love to work with our pupils to get their views on the curriculum and adapt it further to incorporate their ideas on how it can be improved.

The subjects available for pupils from September 2021 will be:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- PSHE
- History
- Human Biology
- Religious Studies
- PE

- Creative Enrichment Activities

Tower Learning Centre Independent School staff differentiate the work for all levels of ability as we know not all pupils learn in the same way or at the same rate. There will also be opportunities for students to have intervention support should they struggle with particular topics.

### **Exams**

At Tower Learning Centre we want our pupils to achieve to the best of their ability. This is why we have a wide range of exams ranging from GCSE to Functional Skills to ensure there is an exam to suit the needs of every pupil's ability level, meaning there is a higher chance that they will leave with the qualifications they need to enter the next part of their learning journey.

### **Policies**

All Tower Learning Centre Independent School policies are available on our website. These are also available by digital or paper copy free of charge. Please make the request at Reception.

### **Dress Code**

At Tower Learning Centre Independent School, we do not have a uniform for pupils as we have young people here from a variety of settings. We ask that pupils dress appropriately in clothing that is not inappropriate or offensive. Coats are not permitted to be worn in class and should be hung on the back of chairs for the duration of lessons.

### **The School Day**

Registration/Form 9.10-9.30  
Lesson 1 - 9.35-10.45  
Break- 10.45-11.00  
Lesson 2- 11.00-12.00  
Lunch- 12.00-12.50  
Lesson 3- 12.50-2.00  
Lesson 4- 2.00-3.00  
School Day Finishes 3PM

### **Punctuality and Attendance**

Pupils are expected to arrive on time for their school day. Parents and Carers/ Providers will be contacted if their child is not present. We expect Parents/Carers/Providers to contact us in advance if their child has an unavoidable appointment. However, we ask for appointments to be arranged outside of school time. If your child is going to be off due to illness we ask that you contact reception on each day of absence in the morning.

### **Lunch time Provision**

Pupils are not allowed off the School premises during breaks and Lunchtimes. If pupils wish to go home for lunch they must have written permission from a parent or carer.

For those pupils who receive free school meals, there will be lunch provision available. Pupils who pay for their lunch will have the option of whether to have a packed lunch or bring money to have their lunch provided for them. Lunch menus will be available on our website.

## Testimonials

*"We have worked with Tower Learning Centre as an AP for a few years now and they have always been flexible and accommodating for our pupils. I would highly recommend them as an alternative to mainstream school." S. Murphy, Alternative Education Co-ordinator at South Shore Academy.*

*"My experience of Tower Learning has been much better than how I found mainstream school to be. The teachers are lovely and the atmosphere is much more calming due to there being fewer students. Overall I have had a very pleasant educational experience here"*  
*MB, student 2020-2021*

*My daughter is currently in Year 10 and she has attended Tower Learning Centre (TLC). During this time, Kim and her hard working team, have given my daughter a truly wonderful experience; as they have provided her with individualised learning support, which has been pivotal in building her confidence.*

*"My daughter looks forward to her lessons each week, and thoroughly enjoys the "one on one" tutoring she is provided with. As a parent I feel complete relief and peace of mind, as I know that she is in good hands with the teaching team at TLC, and that she will continue to go from strength to strength under their professional expertise.*

*"I highly recommend TLC to any parent. Many thanks from one very happy parent!" Marie Johnson, Parent.*

*"I have been at the Tower Learning Centre for over a year and a half and my experience there has been wonderful! The staff/teachers have been truly supportive, and they are all so friendly!"*

## Term Dates 2021-2022

Autumn Term 	
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> August and Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Inset day- All Staff
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	School opens for all pupils
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Close for Half Term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Re-open for all pupils
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Close for Christmas
Spring Term 	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Inset Day- All Staff
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Re-Opens for Pupils
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Close for Half Term
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Re-open for all pupils
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Close for Easter
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Inset day- All Staff
Summer Term	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Re-open for all pupils
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bank holiday- Centre Closed
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Close for half term
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Inset day- All Staff
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Re-open for students
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Close for Summer



## Staff List 2021-2022

Senior Leadership Team	
Kathryn Towers	Proprietor
Kimberly McCormack	Head Teacher
David Ratcliff	Business Manager
Teaching and Support Staff	
Natalie Partington	English Teacher / Deputy Head

EmilyJane Goodinson	English and Humanities Teacher
Claire Haywood	Science and Maths Teacher
Jenna Bartley	Behaviour and Learning Support
<b>Safeguarding</b>	
Natalie Partington	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Kimberly McCormack	Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Kimberly McCormack	Designated LAC Teacher