



Independent School

DFE No: 890/6010

Prospectus 2023-2024





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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.

Head teacher: Kimberly McCormack

kim@tower-learning.co.uk

Proprietor: Kathryn Towers





Head Teacher's Welcome

At Tower Learning Independent School, 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 13 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.

As a team we are experienced in working with those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and recognise that mainstream education isn't for everyone. We aim to empower our pupils to take control of their learning again and achieve to the best of their ability, not to compare themselves to others who have had different life experiences- because we are all different and I truly believe there isn't a 'one size fits all' approach to education. We welcome anyone to our school that needs a fresh start in education, in a small, nurturing and caring environment.

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 Independent School in order to give them the best chance to grow and succeed during their time with us.

Going in to our third academic year, I look forward to welcoming new pupils to our school and having positive relationships with parents, carers and providers. In addition to this I look forward to welcoming back our returning pupils in September.



Kim McCormack

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. McCormack', written over a horizontal line.



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

Full Time Provision (single roll)

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

Dual Registration (part time)

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.

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 2023 our new look curriculum has been designed in collaboration with teaching staff and the Senior Leadership Team. We have paid attention to what our pupils have said and adapted the curriculum to deliver, not only core academic skills, but skills that enable our pupils to become well rounded young adults.



The subjects available for pupils from September 2023 will be:

- English Language
 - English Literature
 - Maths
 - Human Biology
 - History
 - Art
 - PE
 - Spanish
 - PHSE
 - Life Skills
 - Mindfulness
 - AQA Unit Awards
- (Covering subjects – Religious Studies, Computer Science and Employability Skills etc)

Vocational courses

Available on request through a third party provider (additional fees may in be incurred)

Education support for pupils

All pupils have an individual education plan created by the SENCO within the first few weeks of them arriving at Tower Learning Independent School. The plan is split into four categories of need: Cognition and learning, communication and interaction, SEMH and Sensory and physical. This enables us to plan effectively for each pupil as it is distributed throughout the staff team. this is monitored and updated regularly by the SENCO. this also helps to inform personal targets set with the pupils.

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 a qualification 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. Pupils will be made aware of full dress code on induction.



The School Day

	AM
Registration	9am till 9.30
Lesson 1	9.30 till 10.45
Break	10.45 till 11am
Lesson 2	11am till 12.10pm
	PM
Lunch	12.10 till 12.50pm
Lesson 3	12.50 till 2pm
Lesson 4	2 till 2.45pm
School finishes	2.45pm

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.



Term Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term

Friday 1st September - INSET DAY 1
 Monday 4th September - School reopens to pupils
 Friday 20th October - School closes for half term
 Monday 30th October - School reopens to pupils
 Friday 22nd December - School closes for Christmas

Spring Term

Monday 8th January - INSET DAY 2
 Tuesday 9th January - School reopens to pupils
 Friday 9th February - School closes for half term
 Monday 19th February - School reopens to students
 Wednesday 27th March - School closes for Easter
 Thursday 28th March - INSET DAY 3

Summer Term

Monday 15th April - INSET DAY 4
 Tuesday 16th April - School reopens to students
 Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday
 Friday 24th May - School closes for half term
 Monday 3rd June - School reopens to students
 Thursday 18th July - School closes for summer holidays
 Friday 19th July - INSET DAY 5

Senior Leadership Team	
Kathryn Towers	Proprietor
Kimberly McCormack	Head Teacher
Emily-Jane Goodinson	SENDCO
David Ratcliff	Business Manager
Natalie Partington	Deputy Head
Teaching and Support Staff	
Natalie Partington	English Teacher
Emily-Jane Goodinson	English and Humanities Teacher
Claire Haywood	Science and Mathematics Teacher
Angela Vowles	Art and Cover Teacher
Jenna Bartley	Behaviour and Learning Support
Safeguarding	
Natalie Partington	Designated Safeguarding Lead
Kimberly McCormack	Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Kimberly McCormack	Designated LAC Teacher



Testimonials and feedback from school, care homes and social workers

- ✓ 100% of those surveyed said the 'Quality of Education' at TLCIS was 'Excellent'
- ✓ 100% of those surveyed rated 'Communication' from TLCIS to be 'Excellent'
- ✓ 100% of those surveyed 'Strongly Agree' that TLCIS has 'Met the Needs' of their young people.
- ✓ 67% 'Agreed' and 33% 'Strongly Agree' that their young people have enjoyed attending TLCIS
- ✓ 100% of people surveyed stated that they would recommend TLCIS to a colleague.

What do professionals think about us?

"Kim and her team have worked hard to facilitate and support our child as she had joined late in the school year, communication has been really good from all the staff. Thank you for supporting our child during her time with yourselves"

"Tower is a very good school which has helped our young person achieve his potential in his final year of school. Tower learning have exceeded expectations in helping our young person. All the staff are very professional and communicate well with the home. Could not ask for anymore from a school"

"School have gone over and above for our young person who could be challenging at times. Communication has always been good and the staff have always been professional and good with our young person"



Testimonial

N's Experience of TLCIS ...

100% Attendance!

One of the DOJO leaders

Relaxed environment

Incredible mock results

Fantastic engagement

Background Information

N is a 16-year-old Male pupil who has been with us since the end of October 2021. Prior to this N had spent a long time out of education, he hadn't even attended an education provision for 7 months prior to attending with us. Before this he was completely disengaged with school. N engages really well in his lessons and enjoys Maths and Human Biology the most. N currently has 100% attendance and is one of the top achievers in our behaviour reward system. N performed well in recent mock exams and is on track to achieve 6 grade 4's at GCSE this summer.

What does N think about TLCIS?

N likes attending TLCIS because he finds it to be a relaxed and 'chilled' environment. He thinks the teachers are 'sound and are very reasonable' with him. He said it is different to other schools he has been to because there is no racism, something he has witnessed previously. N really likes the mix of personalities here at TLCIS and he meets types of people he has never met before. He says he would recommend our school to a friend because 'We all have a laugh and learn a lot'.

What does N's social worker think about his TLCIS experience?

N enjoys school, he feels supported, special and is motivated to achieve and learn. Since attending TLCIS he has been proud to talk to me about how well he is doing. Since moving to the area N has re engaged with his education. N has made significant progress with his learning and has discussed with me how much he enjoys school. The school have excellent communication with professionals and his care team. Kim has attended all meetings and has a great relationship with N. Before moving to the area N had not attended education for 7 months, it is amazing through the work teaching staff have done, that he is making huge progress. Well done!!

Middlesbrough Virtual School think...

The support for N at TLCIS has been exceptional, he feels supported and listened to. Any needs he has have also been responded to. N has discussed how much he likes it there and he is thriving in ways we couldn't have hoped for.

What do TLCIS Staff think of N's progress?

N has made amazing progress whilst he has been with us. He is very knowledgeable and working hard to refine his skills. He tries hard in all subjects and he surprised himself with how much he has turned things around since coming here. He enjoys praise and being rewarded, something which we try and tailor to each pupil. He has made secure friendships here and is well liked by his peers and the staff here. We are confident N is going to go forward and do well in his exams this summer and hopefully enjoys his future at college completing a Business Course. We are so proud of all he has achieved and look forward to hearing of his future achievements.