



The Acorn Centre

WEBSITE

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 Headteacher – **Andy George**.

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, unsafe or dangerous behaviours within 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. Some behaviour needs may be the result of unmet SEN or trauma.

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

The purpose of our service is to collaborate with schools offering them a supportive partner, offering advice and recommendations for strategies to implement in school setting, 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 - using a therapeutic and trauma informed approach to behaviours. This may include a focus on developing self-esteem, emotional regulation skills, social skills and working on skills to demonstrate socially acceptable and positive learning behaviours.

There are various support packages available to schools, based on the needs of each individual pupil, which are discussed and allocated to pupils 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 pupils, who may be at risk of exclusion?

There are various support packages available, based on the needs of each individual pupil. Each pupil's case is discussed at panel, and a support package is allocated to schools and pupils who have met the criteria for Tier 4 Behaviour support.

The initial support packages offer 1:1 'in-reach' or 'outreach' interventions as we get to know pupils. These may later lead to access to 'SEMH Focus Group Sessions', 'Counselling or Play Therapy Sessions', and 'Parent and Child Group Sessions'.

Each session is tailored to meet the individual needs of the pupils accessing the intervention.

The team works closely and collaboratively with each school, including SENDCOs, class teachers, teaching assistants, and parents/carers, to ensure that sessions are child-centred, purposeful (to develop key SEMH skills), and highly motivating, while also establishing consistent routines and boundaries.

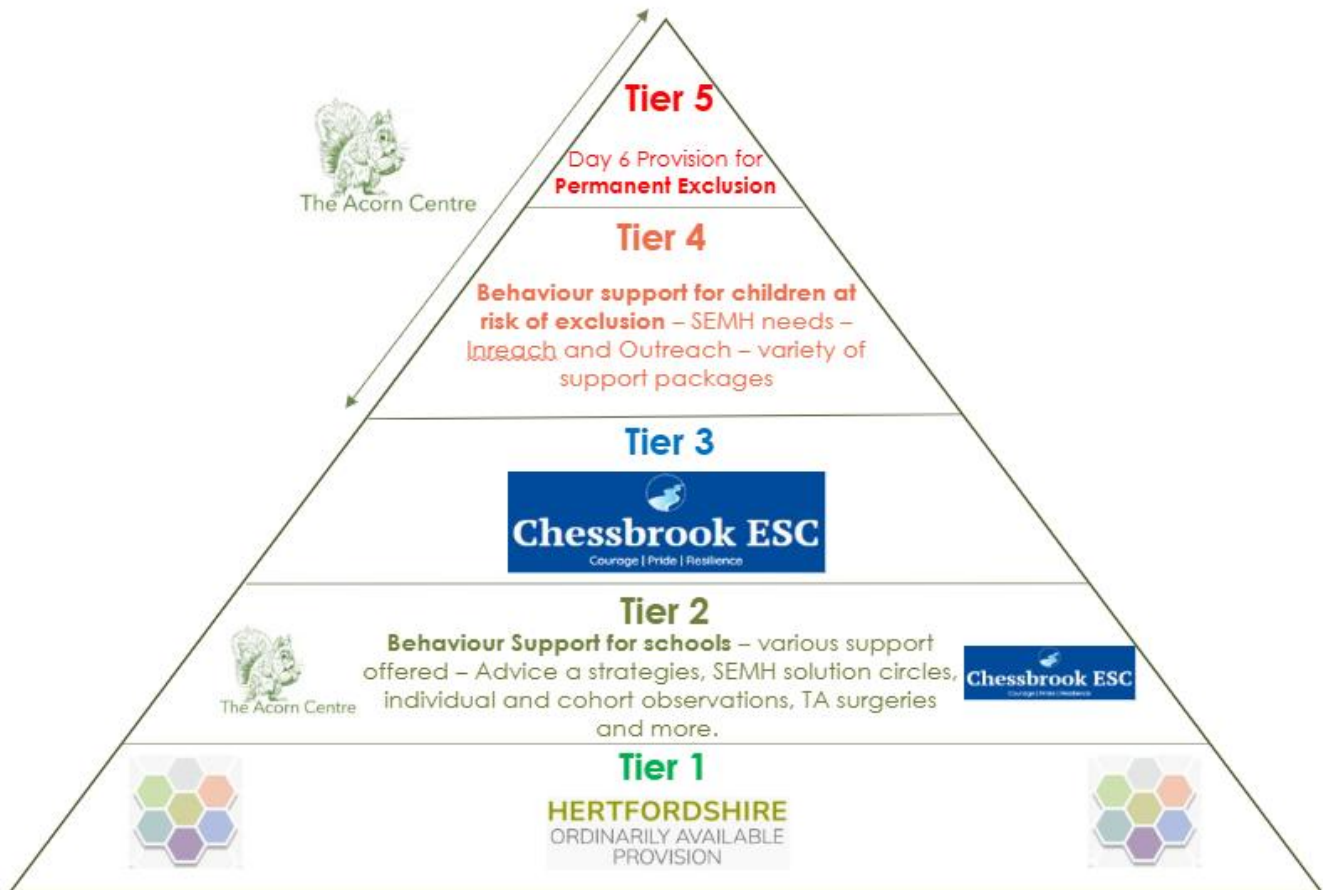
Our aim is to provide each pupil with the skills to reduce their risk of exclusion.

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

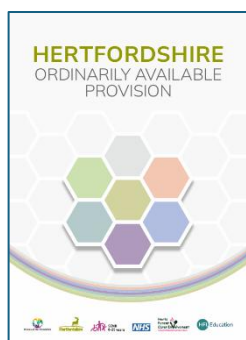
- ✓ remain responsible for their pupils (who remain on roll at their setting)
- ✓ continue to provide pupils with their entitlement to a full-time education at their setting
- ✓ be allocated support from a Behaviour Support Practitioner (BSP), who will work alongside staff, particularly the school SENDCO, class teachers, and LSAs
- ✓ receive advice and suggestions to implement within school throughout the block of support
- ✓ be provided with an End of Term report
- ✓ attend three meetings throughout the block of support to maintain regular contact with The Acorn Centre Team and work collaboratively to meet each pupil's needs
- ✓ liaise weekly with The Acorn Centre Team.

DSPL9 – Tiered Behaviour Support

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



Tier 1 expectations

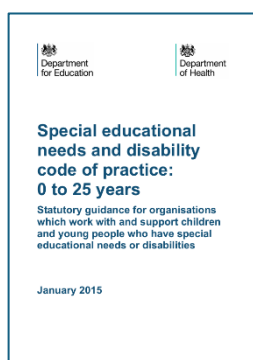


[Click here for copy](#)

It is key, **prior** to requesting Tier 2 support, that your setting have accessed, downloaded, referred to and implemented the expectations outlined within the '**Ordinarily Available Provision**' document.

Ordinarily Available Provision = High Quality Teaching

The **SEND Code of Practice** highlights:



'High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Schools should regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered.'

[Click here for a copy](#)

'High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will meet the individual needs of the majority of children and young people. Some children and young people need educational provision that is additional to or different from this. This is special educational provision under Section 21 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Schools and colleges must use their best endeavours to ensure that such provision is made for those who need it. Special educational provision is underpinned by high quality teaching and is compromised by anything less.'

Tier 2 support



The Acorn Centre Team, Chessbrook ESC and DSPL9 are working together collaboratively to create offers of support for schools finding behaviour challenging with individual or groups of pupils - with SEMH needs

Peer support

We will be in attendance at **SENDCO cluster meetings** - available to provide advice and signposting

SEMH solution circles

Book on to one of our SEMH solution circles - supported by DSPL9, the Chessbrook Team and The Acorn Centre team – sessions are either 8.30am – 9.30am or 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Click here - [SEMH Solution Circles Referral Form](#)

Autumn 2026

Monday **12th October** - am - Primary

Tuesday **3rd November** – pm - Primary

Monday **16th November** – am - Secondary

Tuesday **1st December** - pm - Primary

Monday **7th December** - am – Secondary

Spring 2027:

Monday **25th January** - am - Primary

Tuesday **9th February** - pm - Secondary

Monday **1st March** - am - Primary

Summer 2027:

Monday **19th April** - am - Primary

Tuesday **11th May** – pm - Secondary

Monday **14th June** - am - Primary

Tuesday **29th June** – pm - Secondary

Specialist advice

Provision Lead and/or BSPs to observe and support schools with behaviour needs
- [click here](#)

TA surgeries

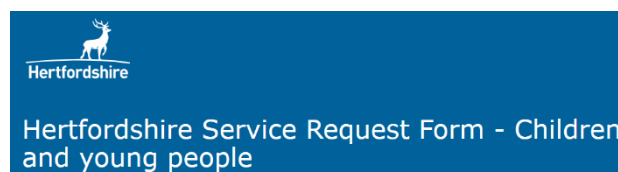
TA surgeries involve one of our experienced Behaviour Support Practitioners attending your setting. You will be given time slots to pop in for a 1:1 or group session to discuss challenges with pupils with SEMH needs anonymously.

Our BSPs will be able to offer you advice, suggestions for resources, signposting and strategies - [click here](#)

We aim to work with SENDCOs across DSPL9 to gather further ideas around what would be useful for schools at this level of need.

Other support already available for you within DSPL9 for SEMH needs...

A whole class approach to behaviour management may be required for some cohorts. This may include targeted training around communication, behaviour management, transitions and routines.



[Electronic Service Request Form](#)

Key teams who can support you with this are:

Speech Communication Language and Autism Team (can be accessed through a single service request referral to Children's Services) [click here](#)

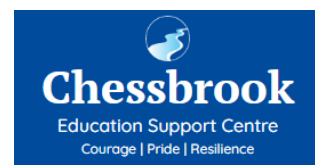
EY advisory Team (can be accessed through a single service request referral to Children's Services.)- [click here](#)



Speech and Language Therapy Team – [click here](#)



Chessbrook ESC - Online referral or registration to the Chessbrook ESC Talks



Making a Tier 2 Support enquiry to The Acorn Centre

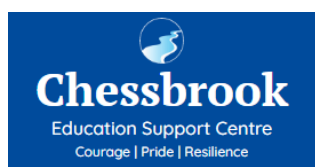
Complete this short enquiry form so we can offer you appropriate support.

[Click here](#)



Special School Outreach

Chessbrook ESC have joined forces with the Special School Outreach team to offer a branch of SEMH support to children with an EHCP.



If you are interested – please [click here](#) – to access their referral form – selecting ‘Special School Outreach’ in the drop down menu.

Tier 3 – support

Early Years

Support for emotional wellbeing and behaviour



For children requiring support from the Early Years Emotional

Wellbeing and Behaviour Specialists, please state this as the reason for the referral.

[Click here to make a referral](#)

Support can be provided by an Early Years Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Specialist. They have specialised knowledge, skills and experience supporting children with social, emotional and behavioural needs. They work with Early Years providers to develop therapeutic behaviour support in their settings. They work with a small number of individual children who may benefit from more individualised support due to their emotional and behavioural needs.

Chessbrook ESC

Chessbrook provides Primary Outreach Support (Tier 3) for all primary schools in the DSPL9 area with the aim to reduce the risk of fixed term and permanent exclusion.

As part of Tier 3 of the DSPL strategy we offer a range of interventions to primary schools for children with significant needs, whose behaviour is still impacting on themselves and/or others, even after the implementation of strategies from DSPL9 Tiers 1 and 2.

Support from Chessbrook includes:

- Working to support schools to meet the needs of named children
- Weekly outreach mentoring – Early Intervention
- Advice and strategies for SENDCos, teachers and key staff from an expert primary teacher
- Counselling from a qualified practitioner for up to half a term
- Reflect & Relaunch (or similar working) multi-family group programme
- Therapeutic Thinking support including risk reduction plans
- Observations and feedback
- Transition support for Year 6 into Year 7

[Click here to make a referral](#)



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 pupils are considered for support at Panel.

Please note – we do not support pupils already awaiting Specialist Provision Setting allocation

Criteria Before Making a Tier 4 Referral:



- Schools must have used the Tier 2 services available to them, prior to the referral
- Pupils must have previously accessed [Tier 3](#) support from [Chessbrook ESC](#).
(If your pupil is within the Early Years or Year 1 – they must have previously accessed the [EY Advisory Team](#))
- Schools must have completed [at least two ADPR cycles](#) following the end of Chessbrook support or EY advisory Team 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.](#)

[Click here to make a referral to the EY advisory Team](#)

Tier 4 Referral – Required Documentation and Expectations:

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

- ☐ Fully completed **referral form**
- ☐ Chessbrook End of Support Report (OR EY Advisory Team support report)
- ☐ Therapeutic Tree or Iceberg Analysis
- ☐ Anxiety Mapping
- ☐ Risk Reduction Plan
- ☐ EHCNA (if completed)
- ☐ EHCP (if in place)
- ☐ CPOMS record
- ☐ Reports from external professionals (e.g. EY Advisory Team, SCLA Team, School Nurse, EBSA, ESMA)
- ☐ ADPR paperwork – Personal Support Plans

Make a Tier 4 referral:

To make a referral for Tier 4 support – please follow the link below or scan the QR code.

**26/27 - Tier 4 - The Acorn Centre -
Behaviour Support Referral**



[Click here](#)

Tier 4 Panel deadlines and dates

There will be 6 panels held throughout the next academic year

2026 - 2027:

Panel referral deadlines	Panel dates
Friday 25th September 26	Thursday 8th October 26
Friday 20th November 26	Thursday 3rd December 26
Friday 8th January 27	Thursday 21st January 27
Friday 26th February 27	Thursday 11th March 27
Friday 30th April 27	Thursday 13th May 27
Friday 25th June 27	Thursday 8th July 27

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 to one another** throughout a **term's block of support**.

Post panel provision available

(Appropriate allocation will be decided at panel)

Outreach – 1:1 - package

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

Block includes:

- Initial meetings – BSP, SENDCO, Class teacher, LSAs and parents to be present
- 'Getting to know you' sessions
- 1:1 sessions in school with pupil, BSP and TA.
- Mid review updates meeting
- End of Term meeting
- End of Term report
- Transition support - prior to closure

Inreach – 1:1 - package

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

Block includes:

- Initial meeting – BSP, SENDCO, Class teacher, LSAs and parents – at school setting
- Tour of the Centre (parent and pupil to attend together)
- 1:1 sessions on site, with pupil and BSP
- Mid review updates meeting
- End Block meeting
- End of Term report
- Transition support - prior to closure

Acorn and Oaks – Parent and child group sessions - package

- ✓ 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 alongside other families
- ✓ 1 session per week – Fridays only – 1.5-hour session – am or pm allocations

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, social engagement and teamwork.
- Parent only time – to reflect and support one another.
- Ongoing communication between the Acorn Support Team and schools.

Kitts and Squirrels – SEMH focus group sessions - package

- ✓ 1 x Termly block of Tier 4 Behaviour Support
- ✓ Class Teacher and BSA input within a group of 4-5 pupils.
- ✓ 4 sessions per week – 2 hours – am or pm allocations

Block includes:

- ✓ Initial team meeting –teacher, parents, SENDCO, Class teacher, LSAs
- ✓ Tour of the setting with parent and child
- ✓ Group sessions on site, with teacher and BSA
- ✓ Weekly communication between school and The Acorn Centre Teacher
- ✓ Expectation of x2 visits to The Acorn Centre per term by key adult working with the pupil.
- ✓ Focus on learning behaviours, classroom routines, acceptance of demands, emotional regulation skills, social skills, tolerance of others, resilience and building of self-esteem.
- ✓ Transition support - with reintegration guidance.
- ✓ Mid review updates meeting
- ✓ End of block meeting
- ✓ End of block report

Child Counselling/ Play Therapy Sessions - package

- ✓ 1 x 20 week block of Tier 4 - therapeutic support/therapy/counselling (reviewed after 6 weeks + at mid-review updates
- ✓ Initial meeting/phone call with parent and school – to establish what support is appropriate
- ✓ 1 x 1:1 session per week with our qualified Integrative Child Counsellor + Play Therapist – 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

CONTACT US:

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