



A Student's Provision at Red Balloon of the Air

Red Balloon is a therapeutic educational provision for the recovery of bullied and traumatised children. In addition to online, real-time sessions offered at Red Balloon of the Air, we also offer face-to-face opportunities at satellite Centres based in Cambridge, Reading, Norwich and NW London. All Red Balloon provision comprises three interwoven strands of Education, Wellbeing and Community.



Students will have expressed a desire to be at Red Balloon and make progress. They commit to behaving with respect and consideration to the other students, the staff and the property.

Red Balloon of the Air is an online provision. We follow the same structure and ethos as our face-to-face centres. However, Red Balloon of the Air is able to work with students who either live too far from a centre or who are unable to attend, usually for reasons of their mental health.

At Red Balloon of the Air, students follow one of two programmes.

Air programme students (usually chosen by school and private referers) receive:

- live online sessions with teachers, therapists and mentors
- initial 1:1 sessions that develop into pair and small group learning
- visits by a mentor
- if a Red Balloon satellite centre is nearby - the chance of community visits, enrichment and group sessions
- teaching in up to 5 core subjects to GCSE, ASDAN, or other courses as appropriate
- a laptop computer provided and serviced by RBAir
- support with transition back to school or to college
- fees are £7,800 pa and are due termly in advance

The **Blended** programme supports students with an Educational Health Care Plan. (EHCP)

Blended programme students receive:

- a bespoke timetable that evolves with the student
- live online sessions with teachers, therapists and mentors
- 1:1 sessions that may ultimately develop into pair and small group learning
- regular visits by a mentor who is also responsible for liaising with relevant multi-agencies to bring together the best provision for the student and meet the EHC plan and agreed outcomes (from all multi-agencies).
- additional subjects as appropriate and a full range of therapy, enrichment and re-engagement opportunities (these are explored and offered as needed to help meet outcomes)
- if a RB satellite centre is nearby - the chance of community visits, enrichment and group sessions
- Fees vary for each student and are based on the bespoke provision that is determined after an assessment and discussions with commissioner, agencies, family and young person - fees are due termly in advance

General Advice:

If you are considering Red Balloon of the Air, please feel free to make an enquiry by phone or email. We recommend that you do not deregister your child from school before contacting us.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Which locations are covered by Red Balloon of the Air?

Because we are a virtual school, we can support students in all areas of the country. Students need internet access. We aim to provide face-to-face mentor support and access to a group work in a satellite centre one afternoon a week, where location allows.

2. What qualifications can student expect to gain whilst at Red Balloon of the Air?

Our provision is tailored to your child. If they are accessing our 'Air' package, they will study up to five core subjects; students on our 'Blended' package can select

more. We offer ASDAN awards, foundation level qualifications and GCSEs, as appropriate to your child. Examples of subjects currently offered are: English Language and Literature, Maths, Double Science, Computer Science, PSHE, Psychology, Animal Care, Business Studies, History, and the Humanities. We also offer conversational Spanish and French. Subject choice will be discussed with you and your child and will depend on your child's requests, the type of provision commissioned and availability of staff.

3. What makes Red Balloon different from other online provisions?

Red Balloon of the Air provides live online teaching so that a teacher is always online with your child during sessions. We also offer 1:1 wellbeing sessions with one of our therapists as part of all packages, in addition to mentor and transition support.

4. My child has been out of school for several years. How would you help them to re-engage?

At Red Balloon of the Air, many of our students have missed a lot of school. Your child will usually start with 1:1 session in core subjects, mentor visits and wellbeing. During these sessions, they will be able to choose the topics they want to study so they are working on something that is of interest to them. We call this the 'negotiated curriculum'. As your child re-engages in learning and builds confidence, we will aim to introduce small group work and increase hours. We will do this at the speed that is right for your child, and in consultation with you and them.

5. I am worried that my child will become socially isolated by working online. How do we avoid this?

At Red Balloon of the Air, we aim to help your child become part of our community by the use of our online virtual world, where they can meet with other students. Students will also have the opportunity to work in groups online with others and have access to our face to face satellite centres if they live nearby. Mentor visits will also help students leave home via activities such as dog walking, visiting coffee shops etc.

6. How do I make a referral to Red Balloon of the Air?

Referrals are usually made in one of three ways:

1. If your child is on roll at school you can ask the school to make a referral - a referral form can be obtained by ringing or emailing the office - details below
2. If your child is not on roll at school, or if the school will not make the referral, you can make a referral - a referral form can be obtained by ringing or emailing the office - details below
3. If your child has an EHCP, the local authority can make a referral by naming Red Balloon of the Air on the EHCP.

Funding can be split between several sources and fees are payable termly in advance.

7. If my child has an EHCP, how do I make a case for a referral to Red Balloon of the Air?

Different local authorities have different rules for referrals to Red Balloon of the Air. In the first instance we recommend that you speak to your EHCP coordinator or SEND worker and seek their advice as to how best to proceed. Please also feel free to contact Red Balloon of the Air directly for information and advice. We can work with your LA to help support your application.

8. Can Red Balloon of the Air cover all areas of an EHCP?

When a student is referred we will be asked to cost the provision we can provide. We will attempt to cover as many areas of the plan as possible, including educational, social and mental health (via our wellbeing sessions). If we are unable to meet the needs of a student's plan this will be made clear at this point and another provision may be sought.

9. If a student has an EHCP, how is the provision coordinated?

All students have a mentor who will coordinate all areas of the plan which we have costed. They will meet regularly with the student and parents to review the provision, and will attend the annual review. Our SENCO will support in more complex cases.

10. My child does not have an EHCP but I think they should have. What can I do?

It is possible for Red Balloon of the Air to apply for an EHCP. However, this is better done by your school, because it requires a lot of evidence which we will not be able to collect for some time after working with your child. Some schools refer us to an Air package whilst the EHCP is being applied for.

More information can be found at the following links:

[Red Balloon of the Air Brochure](#)

[Red Balloon of the Air Video](#)

[Stronger - a true story](#)

[Life at Red Balloon of the Air](#)

For any further questions, enquiries, or to arrange a visit please contact

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