

Day Pupil Guide



oracle
school

A photograph of a rock climbing site. A person in a blue shirt and dark pants is climbing a dark, craggy rock face. Two ropes, one blue and one purple, run vertically down the rock. At the bottom left, another person wearing a yellow helmet and a light grey jacket is managing the ropes. The foreground is filled with green grass and small white and yellow flowers. The sky is overcast.

Welcome to Oracle School!!!

It's great to have you here! This guide will tell you loads about what we do here at Oracle and will give you all the information you will need. The most important thing about Oracle School is that we want you to enjoy yourself and have a good time while you are learning!

Once again, a really warm welcome to Oracle School and it'll be great to see you there!

By

Calum

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About Oracle School

Oracle School is located in the grounds of Wrest Park in Silsoe, Bedfordshire. School hours are from Monday to Friday from 9:30am until 3:45pm. The school day consists of 6 lessons with an hour for lunch and two breaks at 15 minutes each. On a Thursday, we have “Outdoor Education”, consisting of various activities including kayaking, climbing, walking, archery and high ropes courses. On a Friday, we have RAD (Research, Art and Design) day. We study a different topic each week which ranges from World War 1 to Fireworks and Portraits to Rangoli food patterns. All young people are invited to research the topics that are set each week and make various articles related to each topic. During the breaks, everyone is encouraged to take part in various outdoor activities such as tennis, football and basketball, although during bad weather, young people are encouraged to take part in board and card games.

If at any time a young person is finding life stressful, they are entitled to five minutes away in the “chill-out room” from the lesson/activity they are taking part in, this helps to calm situations down and gives the young person a chance to talk if needed.

We are generally a happy, hardworking group and hope you will enjoy your time with us.



About the teachers

At Oracle School, we have qualified education staff; Kevin, Rekha and Tracy. They are really supportive and are very good at what they do. They will do their best to help you to achieve what you want to achieve. The teachers want you to get the best out of your education and help you to do this by planning and carrying out lessons that are easy to take in and they also inject a whole lot of fun into their lesson so you know that lessons at Oracle School are never boring!

Kevin: Kevin has over 10 years of teaching experience and has been with Oracle School since February 2010.

Rekha: Rekha has also got over 10 years of teaching experience and has been with Oracle School since it opened in September 2008.

Tracy: Tracy has had lots of experience as an LSA (Learning Support Assistant) and has recently become a teacher at Oracle School. She has been with Oracle School since April 2010.



School hours and timetable

Oracle School is run from **Monday to Friday** from **9.30am to 3.45pm**.

Oracle has qualified teachers and learning support workers.

There are up to 20 pupils in each Oracle School aged between 11 and 18.

You learn in your own “key stage” with people around the same age as you.

Young people come to school for 25 hours of time-tabled education every week. (That’s 6 hours a day, but don’t worry, it goes pretty fast when you get into it and we do get breaks and a lunch time!)

The timetable is a plan with all the days of the week and the lessons and activities that shows which classes each pupil attends.

The weekly timetable is the same for each term but the topics covered in lessons change — sometimes totally new stuff and sometimes building on what you have already learned.

One day a week (Thursday in Bedford, Friday in Congleton) is dedicated to “outdoor education” — you take part in lots of different activities such as rock climbing, kayaking, archery, etc.

Introducing RCWs

RCWs are care workers who work with the students to help them in classes and at break times and also to support them when they need support. If you have a problem or just need to talk, all of the RCWs are here to help you and listen to any problems, worries or concerns you may have!

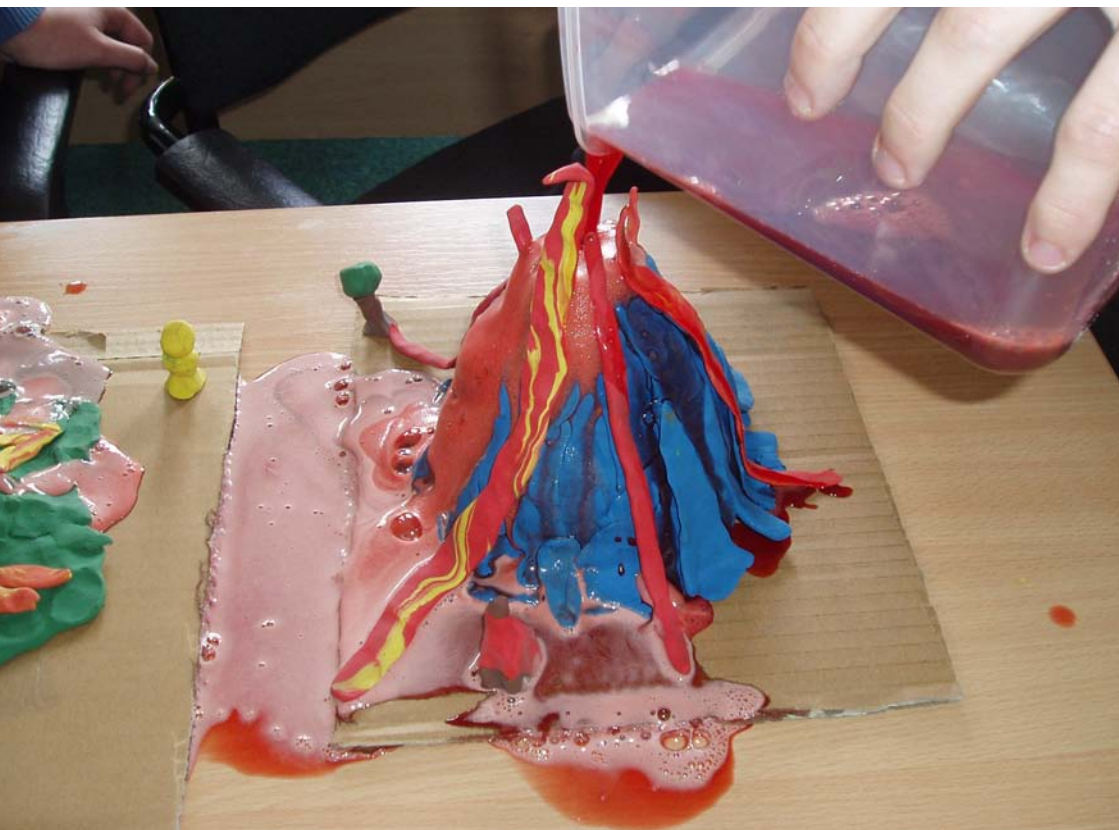
Introducing Support Workers

Support workers do the same sort of job as RCWs do however they are based in classrooms and help you to work and learn inside of class. They look after the day students during lunch and break but they are there for everyone. If you need to talk to someone or have any worries or concerns, like the RCWs, they are here to help and to listen to you so you can go and speak to them about any problems you may have and they will help to solve those issues.



What lessons will I do at Oracle School?

		1	2			3	4			5			6	7
		9.30 - 10.00 (30)	10.30 - 10.50 (50)	(15)		11.05 - 11.50 (50)	12.00 - 12.50 (50)	(1hr)		1.50 - 2.40 (50)	(15)		2.55 - 3.25 (30)	3.25 - 3.45 (50)
MON	EL>	ENRICHMENT SESSIONS WITH MENTORS RP / KM / TD	ICT RP / CF	BREAK		MATHS TD / CM	ENGLISH KM	LUNCH		SCIENCE TD / HM	BREAK		DRAMA KS 3 & 4 KM CF CM	REFLECTION SESSIONS
TUE	EL>	ENRICHMENT SESSIONS WITH MENTORS RP / KM / TD	ICT RP / HM			MATHS TD / HM	ENGLISH KM			PSHE RP		MUSIC KS 3 & 4 MD CF CM RP, KM, TD		
WED	EL>	WITH MENTORS RP / KM / TD WITH MENTORS RP / KM / TD	ENGLISH KM / CF			SCIENCE TD / HM	PSHE RP			ENGLISH KM / CM		READING LESSON KM / CM		
THU	OUTDOOR EDUCATION													
FRI	GROUP A	RESEARCH, ART & DESIGN (RAD) TD	(RAD) TD / CF	BREAK	(RAD) RP / CM	(RAD) RP / CM	LUNCH		SCHOOL COUNCIL KS 3 & 4 KM / CF	BREAK		ENRICHMENT RP/TD	ASSEMBLY KS 3 & 4	
	GROUP B	(RAD) RP / CM	(RAD) RP / CM		(RAD) TD / CF	(RAD) TD / CF						ENRICHMENT RP/TD	ALL STAFF	



Who teaches what subjects?

We have three teachers at Oracle School. They each teach two to three subjects:

- ☉ Rekha teaches ICT, PSHE and RAD (Research, Art and Design).
- ☉ Tracy teaches Maths, Science and RAD (Research, Art and Design).
- ☉ Kevin, our head of centre, teaches English and Drama.

We also have a music teacher called Margaret who comes in every Tuesday to teach Music and Body Percussion.

Outdoor education

Every Thursday, we have a day which is dedicated to “Outdoor Education”. In Outdoor Education, you take part in a variety of activities each half term, ranging from kayaking to climbing to high ropes courses. What is guaranteed is whatever the activity is, you will always enjoy it!!

School trips

Every now and again, we go on school trips. These are usually at the end of term and they can be activities such as bowling and tobogganing. Most of the trips that we go on are decided by the students so we always do what we choose to do.

School Rules

Oracle School has rules. Some of the school rules are:

- Speak to people with respect
- No swearing
- No physical or verbal bullying (threats, violence etc.)
- No inappropriate comments or behaviour
- No private conversations
- Treat others how you would like to be treated

There are quite a few more rules and this is just a few of them. Breaking these school rules can mean you do not earn token points or result in consequences such as loss of free time at break/lunch or both or catch-up work.

School uniform

Oracle School's uniform consists of:

- A light blue polo shirt with the Oracle logo (provided by Oracle)
- A navy fleece with the Oracle logo (provided by Oracle)
- Black trousers
- Black school shoes

Rewards and incentives within the school

At Oracle School, we have lots of rewards and incentives that you can work towards as a result of positive behaviour. Some of the rewards you can work towards are:

- 🕒 **Token Points:** There are 10 token points available per lesson at school (20 for the first lesson) and 5 for each break. These add up and are added together to give you a total amount of money that you get at the end of each half term.
- 🕒 **Good News:** Good News' are worth 10p each and you can achieve these by doing things such as staying on task, achieving targets and ignoring any distractions that may be going on around you. Every Good News you get is added up along with your points to give you a total amount of money at the end of every half term.



Credit: Credit is worth 50p and can be earned for outstanding work that deserves more than a Good News. Credit can be exchanged for something out of our credit box which includes things like pens, DVDs, deodorant/eau de toilette and folders.

Oracle School also has incentives that you can work towards. Some examples of those incentives are:

Certificates: You can achieve certificates at the end of every term for outstanding achievement in either class, Outdoor Education or even in behaviour.

GCSEs: In Years 10 and 11, you can take your GCSE qualifications. You can take them in a lot of different subjects such as English, ICT, Drama, Maths and many more.

School Trips: In Oracle School, you can participate in a school trip at the end of term if your behaviour has been positive. This is something that you work towards and earn and you don't get the chance automatically.



These are just some of the incentives that you can work towards. There are more and a lot of them change over time but these are the more solid ones.

Day pupils share what they think about the school!

Some of our current day pupils were interviewed to find out what they thought of Oracle School. Here is what they said:

What's it like to be an Oracle School Day pupil?

"It's fun and I really like it" (JW)

Do you enjoy being an Oracle School day pupil?

"Yes because it is fun and a nice environment to be in" (JW)

What have you achieved during your time at Oracle School?

"I can read, write and spell better and I am more sociable"
(JSG)

One of our ex-pupils left at the beginning of the summer holidays. I asked him:

What do you plan to do in the future, now that you are leaving Oracle School?

I plan to go to college full time and also hopefully come and visit the school once a week. (JW)

Would you recommend Oracle School and why?

Yes I would because it is fun and a nice environment to live in.

Interview with former day pupil at Oracle School

One of our ex-day pupils now lives in one of Oracle's houses. Here is what he said about the differences between being residential and being a day student:

Did you enjoy being a day pupil at Oracle School and why?

Yes because it's a good environment to be in and I have made lots of friends. However, I did not like the travelling because I live quite far away and it made me quite tired and I could not concentrate as much as I would like to have done.

Do you prefer to be residential with Oracle or to be a day student?

I prefer to be residential because I sleep a lot better and don't have to travel so far to school therefore I can concentrate a lot better when I am at school.*

You are leaving school at the end of this summer term. What do you feel you have achieved during your time at Oracle?

I can read and write a lot better and I am a lot more confident in myself. I have also made a lot of friends.

What do you plan to do next after you leave Oracle School?

I plan to go to college next term full time and I also plan to learn to drive.

Finally, would you recommend Oracle School to others and why?

Yes I would because it helps you with issues you have had in the past and is a nice environment to learn, work and socialise in.

* ED says: this is an unusual situation as most day pupils live near the School in the first place!

Introduction to therapy at Oracle

Oracle School is here to help you and one of the ways that we do this is through therapy. Our therapists are here to listen to you and to help and support you with any problems, concerns or worries you may have. At least one therapist is about each day so you can talk to them and they will try their best to resolve any issues for you.

Who are the therapists at Oracle?

We have two brilliantly qualified therapists at Oracle. They are Rowland and Polly and they have lots of experience between them and are both very passionate about the job they do.

Rowland has been with Oracle since 2009 and is very supportive, very calm and very good at what he does.

Polly joined us in 2011. She is very bubbly, very approachable and easy to talk to. Polly is also very supportive and good at what she does.

They are both here to help you and at least one therapist is around each day if you need to talk or if you just fancy catching up.



A brief overview of therapy and how it works (in Polly's words)

At Oracle, we want to help you sort out the things that cause you problems in your life, and develop more positive choices.

Therapy interventions are opportunities to talk about and work on things that are difficult about your life.

In therapy sessions, you can talk about problems you are having, or about issues and feelings about things that have happened. You might talk about things that are happening now or things from your past.

In therapy sessions, we can work on issues by talking, or drawing, or using different resources like DVDs or worksheets.

Sessions can help with how you get on with other people, to help you sort out disagreements and make better relationships. Also, sessions may help you manage troubling thoughts and feelings.



We can offer regular sessions with a therapist, so that you can see the same person who will get to know you well. Interventions can also happen just by having a helpful chat with a supportive member of staff at any time of day.

Summary of my work on Oracle School's "Day Pupil Guide"

For the past five months, I have been working on the "Day Pupil Guide". I have had to collect a lot of information to put into the guide, such as the Introduction to the School, Therapy, Outdoor Ed and Lessons that we do at Oracle School, as well as asking the points of view from other students.

I collected this information by asking various people, obtaining a timetable to use as a sample in the brochure and also carrying out interviews with the young people to find out their points of view.

I interviewed the young people in an informal environment so that they felt comfortable and therefore they were able to give more honest answers to my questions.

I spoke to the teaching staff and RCWs to get an idea as to what their roles are within the school, so that I could include the information in the brochure.

I also gathered a lot of resources such as pictures and models/pieces of work, to use as visual aids to give readers an idea of things that they would do whilst in the school.

I produced a content plan which would help me to visualise the order in which to place documents in the brochure.

In conclusion, I have appreciated the challenge of producing this guide and hope that it proves useful to new pupils.

Calum

(footnote from Oracle Director: During the process described above, Calum also had an opportunity to join the editorial team of a national Sunday newspaper magazine; the Editor and senior journalist were so impressed with Calum's sincerity, interest and participation that they have rated him as their best work placement student – even though he was also the youngest! Well done Calum!)



A photograph of a man and a boy in a wooded area. The man, on the left, is wearing a black polo shirt and black track pants with white stripes. The boy, on the right, is wearing a black and white patterned hoodie, black shorts, and red sneakers. They are standing next to several blue plastic barrels and wooden beams. The background is filled with trees and greenery.

Thank you!

Thank you for reading this brochure! I hope it has helped you and that it had all the information you needed and the answers to all of the questions you may have had. I hope you have enjoyed reading it!

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