



**Five Rivers<sup>®</sup>  
Education**

# **Willow Haven Centre**

## **at Gulliver's Woodland Retreat**

A nature-based alternative provision where young people can reconnect with learning, build confidence and develop skills through art, exploration and a bespoke curriculum with personalised support.





# About Us

Nestled in the woodland behind Gulliver's Woodland Retreat in Warrington, Willow Haven Centre offers a creative and nurturing alternative to mainstream education. Designed for young people who thrive in a more personalised environment, we provide bespoke learning experiences that combine art, outdoor exploration and hands-on discovery.

Our small, supportive environment helps learners rebuild confidence, develop new skills and reconnect with their curiosity through:

- structured woodland learning cabins
- outdoor exploration areas
- creative arts spaces
- quiet sensory reflection zones
- small group teaching spaces.

Every programme is tailored to promote academic progress alongside emotional wellbeing, using nature and creativity as powerful tools for growth. Here, learning feels calm, creative and rooted in nature, giving every learner the opportunity to thrive.

## Five Rivers Child Care

- **Education:** Five Rivers Child Care schools provide a therapeutic educational framework that promotes emotional growth alongside academic success, and so encourages holistic child development. Our education provision is fully integrated with our other services.
- **Clinical Services:** We formulate our individually tailored education plans with input from our team of clinicians. They support the children as they experience therapeutic intervention and prepare them for any transitions in their care or treatment.
- **Crisis Intervention:** Children undergoing a crisis must have educational support creating a familiar, stable base while achieving success step by step to rebuild self-esteem.
- **Fostering:** Children in care of our fostering service can receive tailored one to one educational support through our outreach service 1 ACE.
- **Residential:** Children in residential care have access to onsite registered schools or receive tailored one to one support through our outreach service 1 ACE.

# Our Values

## Respect

We understand the child and young person's needs and expectations and go out of our way to meet these.  
We show consideration for one another.  
We recognise each other's differences and embrace them.

## Adaptability

We're flexible and don't stick to rigid ways of working.  
We treat each and every child and young person as an individual.  
We have a drive and energy to make change. To make a difference. To challenge. To inspire and delight.

## Integrity

We're straightforward, simple and easy to deal with.  
We make complex things clear, concise and uncomplicated, and always follow our strong moral principles.

## Support

We're real, normal and human. We show we understand and care.  
We respond to the needs of our children, colleagues and partners.

## Excellence

We're ingenious. We're innovative.  
We lead the way in creating new ways of doing things.  
We call on our experience, skills, insight and judgement.





# Support

## Willow Haven Centre is designed for young people who:

- Benefit from smaller, more personal class settings
- Feel comfortable in calm, tranquil environments
- May need extra support with emotional regulation
- Have experienced difficult or traumatic situations
- Respond best to encouragement and secure, trusting relationships
- Enjoy learning beyond the traditional classroom
- Are open to trying new experiences
- Like exploring and connecting with the outdoors
- Need help with building confidence or self worth
- Find mainstream education overwhelming
- Appreciate opportunities for creativity and self expression
- Have needs, primarily driven by anxiety
- Seek reassurance and emotional support.

## We help pupils to develop:

- Skills for emotional regulation
- Greater confidence and reduced anxiety
- Stronger engagement in learning
- Smooth and supported transitions
- Core academic skills for success
- Opportunities for therapeutic and creative expression
- Self awareness and personal growth.





# Wellbeing

## Our staff can offer:

- Personalised 1:1 mentoring and guidance
- Daily emotional check ins to support wellbeing
- Therapeutic art sessions for creative expression
- Behaviour and regulation plans tailored to each learner
- Support with social communication and interaction
- Wellbeing mindfulness activities to help build resilience
- Collaboration with parents, carers and other external stakeholders.

*All staff are trauma informed educators, committed to rigorous professional development.*

## We assess and track progress, to support growth in;

- Emotional wellbeing
- Behaviour and self-regulation
- Engagement in learning
- Core academic skills, such as literacy and numeracy
- Social development

with:

- Baseline assessments
- Regular progress updates
- Clear reporting to local authorities, schools, parents, carers and governing bodies.





# Admissions & Programme Information

## Admission Criteria

We welcome learners aged 6-18. Every referral is considered individually, and enquiries can be sent to [education@five-rivers.org](mailto:education@five-rivers.org)

## Accredited courses

- Functional skills
- AQA Awards
- GCSE Art, Craft and Design/Photography (AQA)
- Bespoke vocational pathways

## Practicalities

- Transport is not provided.
- Learners should wear suitable outdoor clothing.
- Learners should bring a packed lunch.

## Safeguarding

Safety and wellbeing are our highest priorities. All staff:

- Complete Level 1 safeguarding training and regular in-house updates
- Are DBS checked and trained in PREVENT, trauma-informed practice and safer recruitment.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Level 3 trained.

## Programme Overview

Learners aged 6-18 can access a bespoke, creative programme tailored to their needs. This may include working towards an award, certificate or diploma in vocational areas. Every learner benefits from:

- Specialised pastoral support, including a key worker outside the main class
- Opportunities to explore feelings and overcome barriers to learning
- Life skills development to support successful progression.

## Programme length

Up to 15 hours per week, with a personalised timetable and package designed to best support each young person.

## Location

Our secure woodland setting is based within the Gulliver's World complex in Warrington, with six purpose-built cabins nestled in a quiet area behind the theme park.

## Cost

£60–£80 per hour, depending on individual needs.



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