



**Red Balloon
LEARNER CENTRES**
For the recovery of bullied children

coram **clc**
Children's Legal Centre

How to support your bullied child

These notes have been prepared jointly by Kidscape, Red Balloon Learner Centres and Coram Children's Legal Centre, each of which can offer you a way of helping your child.

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Kidscape

Dr Carrie Herbert MBE, Chief Executive,
Red Balloon

Noel Arnold, Director of Legal Practice,
Coram Children's Legal Centre

What is Kidscape?

What help can they offer?

Kidscape is a small charity that provides information, training, and support for parents and children facing problems to do with bullying.

Kidscape offers parents/carers and their children a one-day assertiveness training course, called **ZAP**, designed to help children affected by bullying. Groups of about twelve young people of similar age from all over the country who have never met each other before are invited to come on a ZAP training day. Go to www.kidscape.org.uk for information on how to apply, and to access our online advice.

If you'd like to know more...

www.kidscape.org.uk

info@kidscape.org.uk

Kidscape, 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London
SW1W 0DH t: 020 7730 3300

Could ZAP help your child?

If any of the following apply – they:

- are scared to go to school because of being bullied;
- feel alone, withdrawn or “different”;
- are described as being “too sensitive” and “needing to toughen up”;
- feel ill and depressed because of the constant stress;
- have such low self-esteem that you fear they just can't cope much longer;

then yes! ZAP can help them.

85% of young people who attend ZAP courses are not bullied again.

At a ZAP course, your child will learn a toolbox of practical skills which will help them stop being bullied, and join a group of like-minded “future friends” who will understand what they've each been through. They will help each other to perfect their ZAP techniques so they are “bully-proofed” for the future.

Anyone can be a target of bullying. A target is not responsible for being singled out by a bully. ZAP shows young people how to change their body language and to respond to bullying in a way that will keep them safe from bullies in the future.

Parents and carers are offered a separate session which teaches them how best to support their child after ZAP.



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There are over 16,000 children in England between the ages of 11 and 15 who are not at school and who are not getting an appropriate education because of bullying.

What can Red Balloon do for my child?

Red Balloons are small schools set up to provide a fulltime education for children between the ages of 10 and 17 who are too frightened to go to school because of bullying.

There are currently four Learner Centres, in Cambridge, Norwich, NW London and Reading, and a virtual online provision called Red Balloon of the Air (RBAir). Each Centre can take up to 15 children.

The fees are in the region of £20,000 per year per child. LAs, academies and schools are asked to provide fees. RBAir delivers the Red Balloon programme online with face-to-face support from a Regional Mentor. The fees for this provision are £10,000 per year.

The fulltime programme offers a whole range of curriculum subjects, and a comprehensive personal and social education programme called *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, including therapy or counselling, the creative arts, one-to-one sessions dealing with understanding emotions, Circle Time, and other confidence boosting sessions. These two strands are interwoven, and make up approximately 60% and 40% of the timetable respectively.

The aim of Red Balloon is to raise the students' self-esteem, get them back on an academic track, and support their return to mainstream education. Red Balloon offers GCSEs and other qualifications.



Red Balloon is the only charity in the UK which provides a short term educational and therapeutic programme to help young people who have self-excluded from school because of a traumatic event, severe bullying, temporary mental health problems or school phobia brought on by any one or more of these experiences.

If you'd like to know more...

www.redballoonlearner.org.uk

Red Balloon Learner Centre Group,
7a Chesterton Mill, French's Road,
Cambridge CB4 3NP t: 01223 366052

Can Coram Children's Legal Centre help?

The duty of any child's school or local authority is to provide the child with an adequate education. If a child has additional needs, they may well require additional support provided through a Statement of Special Educational Needs ("SSEN"). The SSEN sets out an individualised curriculum for the child in order to ensure that the child does receive an adequate education, according to their needs.

If a child is being bullied and does not have additional educational needs, it may be possible to secure funding from the school or local authority for the child to be placed at Red Balloon or any other appropriate education placement which the parent(s) seeks. However, this can be difficult as it would require substantial medical advice which concludes that the only way to ensure that the child would receive an adequate education is by a placement at the

alternative educational provision in order to overcome the difficulties caused by the bullying. Should the local authority or the school refuse to make funding available, it is possible to seek to challenge that decision by Judicial Review in the High Court.

If a child is being bullied and has additional needs, it is possible to secure a SSEN, or amend one that has already been published for the child. If the local authority refuse to name the placement that the parent(s) seek, it is possible to appeal to the First Tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

For both situations, if the child has a SSEN or not, the question of the cost of the placement is likely to be the crucial issue. The local authority, or the Tribunal, will only agree to a particular placement if it concludes that the placement is an efficient use of financial resources. The

only way to prove this is to successfully secure evidence that supports the view that the alternative placement, such as Red Balloon, is the only placement which can provide adequate education for the child.

Coram Children's Legal Centre is one of only three national service providers of specialist education law advice funded by legal aid. Claims for judicial review and appeals to the Tribunal can be funded by legal aid if you qualify financially. If you do not, we are able to offer competitive rates, and low fixed fees, so as to guide you through the difficult process.

If you'd like to know more...

www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Please contact us: **020 7713 2021**
leave a name and contact number and quote "CCLC/RB", we shall be able to call you back within two working days.

Coram Children's Legal Centre,
Coram Community Campus,
48 Meckleburgh Square, London
WC1N 2QA t: 020 7713 2021

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