

WIRRAL RIDING CENTRE

Haddon Lane,
Neston, CH64 8TA
0151 366 3638



ABOUT US

Wirral Riding Centre has been established for over 40 years, providing riding lessons for adults and children of all abilities and ages by our qualified staff.

We have over 30 horses and ponies so are able to accommodate all abilities from beginners through to experienced riders.

BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY

As a BHS Approved Riding School we are inspected regularly to ensure we meet high standards of safety, horse welfare and tuition.



Opening hours

Monday - Closed
Tuesday - 8.30am - 9.00pm
Wednesday - 8.30am - 9.00pm
Thursday - 8.30am - 9.00pm
Friday - 8.30am - 9.00pm
Saturday - 8.30am - 5.00pm
Sunday - 8.30am - 5.00pm

Alternative Provision at Wirral Riding Centre

'Together, with horses, we can change the way you see the world.'

Changing Lives through horses



As a BHS Approved Centre we joined the Changing Lives Through Horses (CLTH) programme 5 years ago. We currently have over 30 young people who are quickly discovering the transformative power of working with horses.

We are an enthusiastic and dedicated team. We strive to provide the best equine education and experience for our young people and are excited to welcome more young people to our team.

Our vision 'To inspire individuals classified as disengaged and/or disadvantaged to reconnect with society through working with horses.'

The mission 'To empower young people, regardless of their background, with the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge enabling them to return to education and/or employment.'



Horses are a powerful way of inspiring young people to connect with others, become productive members of society and improve well-being.

The CLTH programme has a simple goal, to build young people's resilience, confidence and self-esteem and support them to develop the drive and ambition to be a productive member of society through re-engaging with education and employment. Changing Lives Through Horses has the ability to reach these young people at a critical point in their lives.

WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

- Young people (5-15) who are either permanently excluded, at risk of permanent exclusion or who have special education needs or disabilities (SEND).
- Young people (16-25) who are not in employment, education or training (NEET), therefore at risk of becoming socially excluded with income below the poverty line and without the skills to improve their economic situation.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAMME LOOK LIKE?

The CLTH programme is an educational and character building programme which encompasses the development of Life Skills and academic achievement within an equine environment. There are six fundamental Life Skills which are the foundation for helping young people flourish. These life skills are weaved through the programme for all ages of participants:

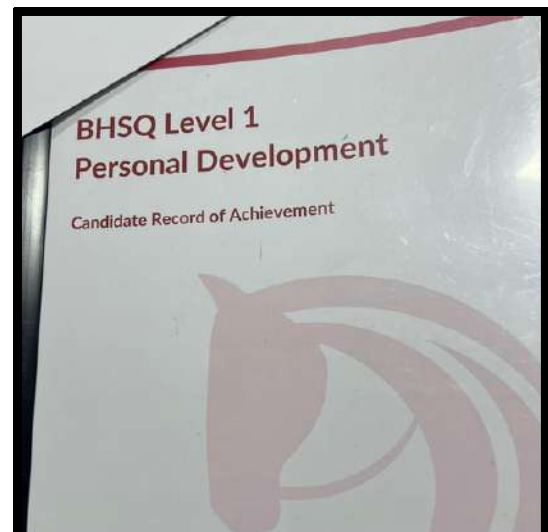
- ✓ Teamwork
- ✓ Confidence
- ✓ Responsibility
- ✓ Perseverance
- ✓ Building Relationships
- ✓ Communication

There are two bespoke frameworks that have been linked to the National Curriculum for KS1 and KS2 and mapped to core subjects within KS3 and KS4.

5-11 years - Achievers
11-25 - Explorers

BHS Qualifications (BHSQ) Personal Development Qualifications

- As well as our Bronze and Silver objectives that our children and young people move through we also offer Personal Development Qualifications (PDQ). These are available for anyone who is 11+ years old.
- The PDQs are GCSE equivalent qualifications
- They are offered in three stages - Entry L3, L1 (GCSE 1-4) and L2 (GCSE 5-9)
- Each of the PDQs are assessed against the six life skills of the programme





WHAT EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED?

The programme does not require the participant to have any previous experience of working with horses or the outdoors; they simply have to show a desire to be in this environment. It is also not necessary for the participant to learn to ride as part of this programme, although this certainly is an option and could potentially be a big attraction.



The impact we have seen the CLTH programme have on young people is phenomenal. Being outdoors on a busy, working yard has given our young people opportunities to communicate with other young people and adults. As our young people gain experience and develop their equine knowledge they are confident around our ponies and horses. They have a sense of belonging, have the confidence to work towards their awards, to carry out day to day tasks and to challenge themselves.

Gabby's Story...

I was in high school, and from Year 8 onwards I wasn't engaging in any of my lessons except for PE which meant I spent all of my time in isolation or wandering around hiding from staff. When I got to Year 10 school mentioned me starting an alternative provision at Wirral Riding Centre. At first I didn't know what to expect because I was scared of horses! When I first started I wouldn't even go into a stable or touch a horse. After day 1 of being at the yard I begged my mum to let me do more days! I ended up doing two days and loved it. I feel like once I had started at the yard school became better. By the time I was in Year 11 I actually went to all of my lessons and didn't run away from any of the staff. As I got to the end of Year 11 Phil, who is the owner of Wirral Riding Centre came to school to explore the options of me doing an apprenticeship with them. Of course, I said yes and I now work 4 full days here!

I can now ride on my own, walk, trot, canter and I am learning to jump! I manage horses on my own all the time, looking after them and putting on their tack in their stables.



Meg's Story...

What can I say, this school and all its staff has been amazing for my daughter. Before she started WRC she was really struggling with school, learning, friendships, and her mental health. Every day was a fight getting her into school and when I did manage to get her into school she was acting out, being rude to teachers and pupils, and missing lessons, she wasn't paying any attention and it was really affecting her mood and well-being, she started self-harming and distancing herself from her family, and had been suspended multiple times and was at risk of permanent exclusion, the final straw was when she was physically attacked in school and needed hospital treatment and stitches. I told them that I didn't believe mainstream education was working for Megan and I decided to Home school her.

Her confidence and self-esteem was really low so I gave her a few weeks to recover and then started looking for activities or groups for her to attend, and then we stumbled across WRC. Meg always had a passion and love for horses but due to our financial situation I'd never been able to afford her proper lessons.

We visited the centre and meg felt like this was a place she would feel safe and happy, the staff were amazing and helped us apply for funding as otherwise it wouldn't of been accessible.

Since attending Megan has come on so much, she's happier and more relaxed, she's enjoying going to WRC and learning all about horses and getting to learn to ride which has been a dream of hers for so long, for someone like Megan who has always struggled academically it's amazing to see how much she's enjoying this learning environment. The staff have been so patient and understanding and made Megan feel so welcome and she has made lots of lovely new friends who all accept each other. It's brought back her confidence and she now feels more content and I am just so proud of how she dealt with everything and how much she is now enjoying being herself.





What some of our parents/carers say...

It provides the young people with opportunities to learn how to control their feelings and emotions

A space for young people to gain strength and confidence

I have been searching for over 12 months to find something suitable for my daughter. As soon as I visited the place I just knew it would meet her needs. I have not come across anything like it

Friendly environment with caring staff. Organisation. The structure of the day is very well organised. This is more than a day out for my son, he really develops his knowledge on horses, his social and communication skills are really improving and he is much more confident from attending these sessions.

Kindness and inclusiveness. Staff show compassion and a real interest in the young person's needs



Believing in yourself is the first secret to success

Everyone has to start somewhere. Today is a perfect day to create something beautiful.



What some of our schools/education settings say...

Enhanced social skills, Better emotional well-being, Increased confidence

Young person would not engage at all with staff. The fact that she regularly attended her sessions with yourselves was a huge improvement.

... is more confident around school and has even managed to enter a classroom

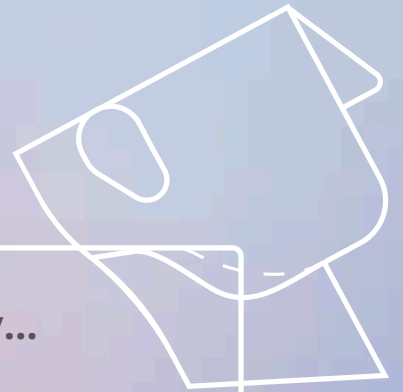
Can I just thank you for excellent communication between yourselves and school also the flexibility you provide really suits our learners. This has really helped her realise we are all coming from the same place.

Better emotional well-being, Increased confidence, Greater sense of responsibility

He has been calmer and dysregulated less often whilst at the centre.

Both pupils really enjoy their time there & have been thriving. They have shown significant personal progress, & they are really happy - which is the most important thing. The Riding Centre has supported them both incredibly.

Believe in yourself and conquer the world



What some of our young people say...

When I get upset or angry I get to go and chill out with Charles, my favourite pony

It has helped me build confidence and trust in the horses

Being able to socialise with other children while having fun

Helped my gain confidence and help others

It has helped me with responsibility because to look after a horse is responsibility and it has helped me with social skills because you have to communicate with people as well.

It's helped me become a lot more positive and happier than I was before

It has helped me with my social skills and how to actually talk to people

My riding has improved, I deal with situations better than I use to and I am more sociable



How to start the journey for your young people

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

Give us a call

Call us at Wirral Riding Centre and ask for Stacey. We can learn a little bit more about what it is you are looking for before arranging a visit for parents/carers, the educational setting and young person.

Website

Visit our website, select the Alternative Provision tab and 'Make An Enquiry'

Email

Email us your questions and we will help you to understand how we can facilitate a position for your young person.

FAQ

- **How many days can my young person do?**
Each young person can do the number of days that suit them, parents/carers and the educational setting. These days are flexible and can increase/decrease where necessary. The maximum is 18 hours a week.
- **How do I fund my young person attending?**
Most young people are funded by their educational setting but young people can be funded through other community/private funding too. Each session from September 2024 is £60 a day unless your young person should require more support.
- **What do I do now?**

Speak to the team around your young person and express your interest at WRC.

