



getsorted...
changing lives through music

the shed
an alternative way to learn

welcome to the shed

The Learning Centre (known as The Shed to the young people) is a detached bungalow behind the main building. Throughout the years the Learning Centre has grown and developed and now provides excellent facilities for young people who are looking for an alternative curriculum. Here, young people can learn how to learn again, reach their own potential, achieve qualifications and take exams, receive pastoral support and work towards their own goals. When the time comes for them to leave school, they can move on to our Stepping Stone project where they will be supported until they find work, move on to further education or join the NEETs programme. Referrals come from a wide range of services including schools, social services, know the score (drugs counselling team) and other voluntary and statutory agencies.

The Shed has some excellent success stories as the young people work at their own pace, achieve at their own levels and come out with qualifications and certification as a result of their hard work.



become a sheddie



what's in it for us?

Young people ask us what's in it for us, the answer is simple: whatever you want out of it. If you want a qualification then we have a range of qualifications and certification you can take. Having problems at home, neighbourhood, victims of bullying, drug/alcohol issues, then we have a pastoral care system in place as well as a list of agencies which we can bring into the building to help you. Need somewhere to learn but feel embarrassed because your key skills are not too good, then we have a range of ways which will help you. We have lists of challenges you can undertake including cooking, baking, visits, games, art and craft, music, rapping, photography, film making etc. By carrying out your challenges you can achieve.

Leaving school and not sure what to do? We have a Stepping Stones programme to help you make your choices or for those not ready to leave, then join the programme until you are sure. Whatever efforts you put into the Learning Centre the more you will gain out of it.

from within the shed

Young people start arriving from 9.30am even though the morning session doesn't start until 10. A useful time for coffee, chatting and for sorting out any problems. The morning session always starts with half an hour of maths and English work (these lead to qualifications)

“ I am quite good at maths but not very good at english, I am getting better though.”

Once the maths and English have been completed, students continue working on other challenges or awards until the ten minute break at 11 o'clock. After the break the students continue with their work until lunch time.

“ I am working on an AQA to learn how to DJ and my friend is doing something called NCFE music tech.”

In the afternoon students continue with what they were working on in the morning or can change activities and choose another one. There is a short break in the afternoon and then the session finishes at 3pm.


“ It's weird because I actually enjoy doing my work!”

“ The staff are nice, I enjoy talking to them and if I am in a bad mood they will do their best to make me feel better.”

(All comments are from a range of students)



our philosophy



“When I first started I got asked what I wanted to do. I chose AQAs because you can do lots of different things like cooking, art and music and you get to go out and do things.”

- **Everyone Counts:** Everyone is welcome at Get Sorted. We look after the needs of individuals, groups and parents. What you want to achieve, we aim to deliver.
- **In the Mix:** Variety is at the heart of what we do. We don't tell you what to do; we help you to learn the thing that will make a difference for you, in the way you want to learn.
- **Musical Youth:** Get Sorted is young at heart. We believe that fun is central to learning and we find ways to learn that match the personality of our pupils, young and old.
- **Schools Out:** We leave the normal stresses, strains and structures of school behind and make learning part of a fun, social environment.
- **Modern Times:** We believe that music and performance have roots back in time but we are never fusty or old fashioned. The way we present, package and teach music and performance is always up to date and reflects the very best of today.

Whatever you choose to do at Get Sorted you will find that our principles make a difference.

working with individuals

We believe in individual personalised learning. Every young person has an induction where we try to get to know a little bit about you, what you enjoy doing, hobbies, other likes and dislikes. We want you to tell us what it is you hope to achieve or get out of being at Get Sorted. If you have any hobbies or interests, let us work with you to develop them. Who knows, these may become your future career pathway. Young people interested in hairdressing have done challenges based on hairdressing with us and have then gone on to college to develop their skills. Some have got work doing the things that they enjoy and others have gone on to volunteering in places where they would like to get a job.

All our young people have a key worker who will help and support them. We have monthly 1-1 meetings with each young person so we can make sure we are meeting their individual needs. Our aim is to help young people achieve what they want to achieve.



“Get Sorted stands out from other placements because of its relaxed environment and its caring staff”

the journey

Individual Needs: Young people thrive and achieve more when they have ownership of their work and their learning. Get Sorted firmly believes in personalised, individual learning. We know that young people will reach their full potential when they have their individual needs met. This can include education as well as pastoral care and support.

Life Skills: Young people need basic life skills. We offer a range of challenges around cooking and baking, healthy eating, budgeting, shopping, applying for jobs/college, filling forms in, hygiene, drug and alcohol abuse awareness, world of work etc. We want our young people to achieve and to move forward and to feel part of society.

Basic Education: Half an hour of maths or English is compulsory for all our young people. They work at their own pace and when they feel confident, they take an on line test so they can achieve their maths and English accreditation. Other forms of education are hidden within the challenges so they are learning and developing their skills and knowledge in an informal way.

Accredited Learning: We offer a wide range of accredited courses. These include Asdan awards, ALAN tests, AQA awards, NCFE and NOCN. Within these awards are a wide range of choices they can make depending on what their interests and hobbies are. We want young people to make their own choices and have ownership of their learning.

The Future: In their final school year, young people can be supported in making their career choices. We can help them with college applications, interviewing techniques, helping them to find work and filling in job applications. For those who do not feel ready to move on, we offer our Stepping Stones programme so that young people who are still hesitant about taking the next step can continue at Get Sorted until they feel ready to move on. For those who have moved on and things may not have worked out as well as they had hoped, the option to return is always available.

an alternative curriculum

Some young people find it difficult to achieve and to access mainstream education on a full time basis. The reasons are very different for each young person but equally as important. Get Sorted has listened to schools, other agencies and the young people to come up with a Learning Centre that meets the individual needs of young people who can achieve and learn off site. We provide key skills, life skills, world of work and a range of challenges which leads to accreditation. We want young people to achieve, we want them to be heard and we want to help them succeed.

The Learning Centre provides a safe, friendly and welcoming environment and all the staff are young people centred. The centre is not just about learning, but about supporting the young people and meeting their needs. We work closely with schools and other agencies so that by working together we can help these young people to progress.



parents quotes

“ He really looks forward to attending the sessions at Get Sorted a lot. He feels relaxed there and likes the environment and it has given him an outlet in which to express himself. His sessions have helped to build up his confidence in social situations and they are also helping him to develop his interests further. ”

“ He has changed a lot since attending Get Sorted; he really enjoys it and has learned a lot of new skills. ”


“ Unlike school he seems settled and more responsive to Get Sorted which makes our lives easier with his education. ”

“ She has a new lease of life since she has been going to Get Sorted and really enjoys her time there. She has really developed and I can see a change in her attitude, she now believes in herself thanks to you and everyone at Get Sorted. ”



story one

A student was referred to Get Sorted from Clifton Comprehensive School. The student was not attending school due to family issues and barriers to learning. Whilst at Get Sorted they engaged in numerous activities based around their own individual interests. This included music technology, fashion shows, arts and crafts and more. We incorporated basic numeracy and literacy into their work to enable them to work on key skills whilst enjoying the task they were working on. During their placement, the student achieved their ASDAN Bronze Award. When the student first started, they had a negative attitude towards work and suffered from low self esteem and a lack of confidence in their academic abilities. As time went on, the student built excellent working relationships with staff at Get Sorted and found it easier to engage and focus when working in a more informal and relaxed working environment. In year 11, the student slowly re-integrated back into school and managed to attend school for one day each week which was a huge achievement. By this time, their attitude towards work had improved dramatically and has enabled them to do some GCSE exams and secure a place at college doing catering.



“At the Learning Centre we have a chance to be ourselves and learn new skills at our own pace”

story two

Another student originally came to Get Sorted to offer emotional support to his sister who did not attend school due to suffering from agoraphobia. The student attended Get Sorted for sessions on Fridays and attended comprehensive school for the rest of the week. He was a mild mannered individual who suffered at times from peer pressure and low self esteem while in a classroom environment. Speaking to the Shed staff with regards to his friend's criminal activities and family issues helped the student to distance himself from trouble and focus on his skill set in order to obtain a degree of independence. Utilising Get Sorted's job search options allowed the student to discover which college courses were available to him. Upon completing school, the student left with GCSE results which were high enough to warrant a continuation of his education at College. Our student says, "Without the understanding and patience of the staff at Get Sorted, I would have surely chosen the wrong path and made the wrong judgement calls about my social activities and education". This student is now at college working on an apprenticeship and has matured into a tenacious and compassionate young person.




“ I like how you can do music but still feel like I am working towards something ”

story three

Our student was excluded from school due to bad behaviour, poor attendance and a negative attitude towards learning in general. Our student struggled to work in a group environment and would often display hostility towards staff and other students. For these reasons this student was referred to Get Sorted.

We allowed our student to work on a one to one provision and spent time discussing his own interests and hobbies. We found out that he had not only an interest, but an undiscovered talent for music technology. The relaxed atmosphere at Get Sorted allowed our student the time and attention he needed to work towards a qualification based around something he truly enjoyed. Over the past few months our student has built up excellent working relationships with staff and is now able to socialise appropriately in a group environment. He is now back in school part time and we have received reports from both school and parents commenting on positive changes in our student's attitudes and behaviour when he is at school as well as in his home life. Our student is now on the verge of completing the NCFE level 1 award in Music Technology and is close to starting the next stage of his progression.



“ I like the staff and I get along with all the other students ”

our stories

the bridge

This organisation is the epitome of 'child-centred'. It is a place where young people belong - not because they are given a uniform and a set of rules to adhere to, but because they are respected and listened to - all the time. It is the sense of belonging that extends into the impact they have upon families and partner organisations. Apart from the excellent results they achieve in music tuition, Get Sorted specialises in engaging vulnerable young people who have lost or are losing their identities as learners. The staff at Get Sorted bring these young people back to view themselves much more positively and this transfers into their homes, their schools and more broadly into their lifestyle choices.

Steve Barton

Head of Centre at The Bridge PRU

clifton school

Without a doubt Get Sorted is the most engaging and creative out of school provision I have had the pleasure to work in partnership with. The staff are unfailingly enthusiastic and welcome and engage young people regardless of level of challenge or learning needs. Get Sorted has successfully engaged our most challenging as well as our most vulnerable students and has supported their learning through programmes of literacy and numeracy projects, career planning and most recently in gaining credits towards NOCN accredited qualifications.

My test as a professional is always would this be good enough for my child. It is no accident that as a parent I have chosen to send my children to Get Sorted. I have the greatest respect for this organisation and its work with and commitment to positively changing the lives of young people through music.

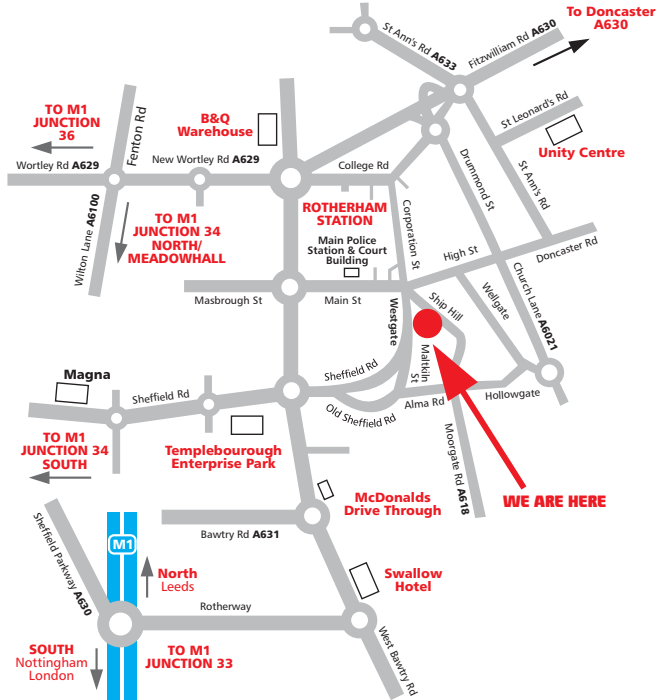
Caroline Gray

Assistant Head teacher: Inclusion Clifton: A Community Arts School

who we work with

Get Sorted work with a wide range of agencies both voluntary and statutory as well as working with a number of schools in the Rotherham area. All young people being referred will have an initial meeting so we can work together to meet the needs of the young person. Young people have been referred from schools, social services, Know the score, Connexions, the Police, Early Intervention Team, parents and carers etc.





from the South

leave the M1 at J34 Meadowhall. Take the 4th Exit at the roundabout signposted Tinsley. Follow for approx 2 miles. Go straight on at the first major roundabout to Westgate. Get Sorted Academy of Music is on your right.

from the North

leave the M1 at J34 Meadowhall. Take the 2nd exit at the roundabout signposted Meadowbank/Rotherham. Turn right at first major traffic lights. Turn left at the T-junction onto Masbrough Street. Go straight on at the roundabout to Main Street. Turn right at the T-junction onto Westgate. Get Sorted Academy of Music is on your left.

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