

Illuminate You, Lifelong Learning Lodge – Statement of Purpose

Name: Illuminate You, Lifelong Learning Lodge

Address: George Henderson Lodge, Morton, Gainsborough

Age Range: 11–16 years

Gender: Mixed

Type of Setting: Independent Special School

Category of Need: Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)

Proprietor: Jon and Stuart

Curriculum Lead: Sarah Bell

Contact: Education@illuminatecaregroup.co.uk

1. Introduction and Ethos

Illuminate You, Lifelong Learning Lodge is an independent special school providing full-time education for young people aged 11–16 who experience Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and may have struggled to engage with mainstream education.

Our mission is to create a safe, nurturing, and therapeutic learning environment where each learner feels valued, understood, and empowered to reach their full potential. We believe that education should not only focus on academic progress but also promote emotional regulation, social development, and lifelong learning skills.

Our ethos is built around the acronym T.R.I.B.E. –



These values underpin all aspects of our provision and guide the relationships, routines, and practices that support our pupils' growth.

2. Aims and Objectives

Illuminate You aims to:

- Re-engage young people with learning through a trauma-informed and relationship-based approach.
- Provide a broad, balanced, and meaningful curriculum that combines academic learning with emotional and social development.
- Develop self-regulation, resilience, and independence through personalised learning pathways.
- Prepare young people for adulthood, further education, and employment through practical and vocational experiences.
- Work collaboratively with families, local authorities, and external professionals to promote the best outcomes for every learner.

3. Type of Education Provided

The school provides specialist, therapeutic education tailored to the needs of learners with SEMH profiles.

Our curriculum integrates academic, vocational, and therapeutic learning, allowing pupils to achieve success both in qualifications and personal development.

Learners work towards AQA Unit Awards, Functional Skills in English and Maths, and bespoke personal development goals linked to their EHCP outcomes.

The curriculum includes:

- **Core subjects:** English, Maths, Science, ICT, PSHE, and Citizenship
- **Creative and practical subjects:** Art & Design, Design Technology, PE, and Horticulture
- **Therapeutic learning:** CBT sessions, music therapy, emotional regulation, and reflective practice
- **Life and vocational skills:** Independence training, community engagement, budgeting, and employability skills

All teaching is individualised to support emotional regulation and cognitive development. Learning takes place in small class groups, supported by staff who understand trauma-informed education and SEMH needs.

4. Therapeutic Approach

Illuminate You operates within a therapeutic framework that recognises the impact of trauma and adverse experiences on learning and behaviour.

We use the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) model and integrate support from our in-house CBT practitioner, counsellor, and music therapist. Emotional regulation and restorative practice are embedded across the timetable, helping pupils understand and manage their emotions in a safe and supported environment.

5. Admissions and Withdrawal

Admissions are made via local authority referrals for young people with SEMH needs, typically supported by an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Each referral undergoes a careful assessment and matching process to ensure the school can meet the young person's needs effectively and safely.

Prior to admission, the school conducts an initial visit, risk assessment, and transition plan in partnership with the family and professionals.

Withdrawals are managed sensitively, ensuring continuity of education and emotional support. We work closely with the placing authority to coordinate onward placements and provide transition information to the receiving provision.

6. Staffing, Qualifications, and Safer Recruitment

Illuminate You employs a multi-disciplinary team including qualified teachers, tutors, therapists, and support staff with extensive experience in education, health, and social care.

All staff undergo a robust Safer Recruitment process, including:

- Enhanced DBS checks
- Verification of identity and right to work
- Two verified references
- Full employment history checks

Staff hold relevant qualifications in Education, Health & Social Care, Counselling, and Leadership & Management (Level 5 and above).

All staff complete a structured induction and CPD programme covering safeguarding, behaviour management, trauma-informed practice, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI), first aid, and equality and diversity.

7. Safeguarding and Welfare

Safeguarding is central to all practice at Illuminate You. We follow the guidance in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE 2025) and Working Together to Safeguard Children.

The school has a designated DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and two deputy DSLs who are trained to Level 3 or above. Safeguarding information, local authority contact details, and referral pathways are displayed throughout the school.

We maintain close working relationships with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), local safeguarding partnerships, and multi-agency professionals. Regular audits ensure our safeguarding systems remain robust, transparent, and effective.

8. Complaints

Illuminate You maintains a clear and accessible Complaints Policy in line with the Independent School Standards.

Parents, carers, or professionals can raise concerns informally or formally. All complaints are recorded, investigated promptly, and responded to within specified timescales.

To date, the school has received zero formal complaints, reflecting our open communication and strong relationships with families and professionals.

9. Governance and Quality Assurance

The school is overseen by the Proprietor and Governance Team, who provide strategic leadership and accountability for compliance with the Independent School Standards.

Regular governance meetings review safeguarding, quality of education, staff development, and pupil progress.

Internal audits and independent quality assurance processes ensure that the school continuously improves and meets regulatory expectations.

10. Contact Details for Further Information

Copies of all school policies, including safeguarding, behaviour, curriculum, and complaints, are available on request or via the school website.

Proprietor: Jon Corr and Stuart Nicoll

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