

INFORMATION ABOUT THE LINK PROGRAM

The Link Centre has been established to support young people, who are under the school aged between 11 and 13.5 years, and who have educational, social and emotional needs.

What will your child do at the Link Centre?

Your child will do some tests before they start. These tests are just to make sure the Link Centre staff know what help to give your child so that they can improve their English and Maths. Once this has been established, your child will be given individual works and lots of help from the staff so that they can progress as quickly as possible.

Your child will also choose a number of electives and activities that will help them learn, as well as how to cooperate in the classroom.

There will be group work sessions. These sessions will help your child with social and living skills.

How long will my child be at the Link Centre?

Your child will attend the Link Centre for approximately two terms, after which, they will be supported for an another two terms at your child's home school.

The maximum time any young person will be supported by the Link Centre is for 12 months.

When does my child need to arrive at the Link Centre?

Your child is expected to arrive at the Link Centre at 8.55 AM and stay till 3.00 PM from Monday to Thursday, and 8.55 AM to 12.30 PM on Friday.

Does the Link Centre provide breakfast?

If your child brings \$1.00, and arrives by 8.35 AM, breakfast will be given. Breakfast will include a piece of fruit, toast and cup of coffee or tea.

Does the Link Centre provide lunch?

No, the Link Centre does not provide lunch. Your child will need to bring their lunch, as we do not go to shops to buy lunches. There is a fridge at the Link Centre and a microwave that your child can use.

What support is provided to my child from the Link Centre?

When your child starts at the Link Centre, your child will be put into a group with their key worker. The key worker will be responsible for looking after your child while he/she are at the Link Centre. You should contact this person if you have any questions.

In addition, a social worker will also visit you at least once per term. This is to provide information about how your child is progressing.

What will I need to do to help?

You will need to attend a number of meetings with your child. They are:

- The initial meeting where you and your child decide if you child will attend the Link Centre.
- A meeting at the end of each term to talk about how your child's learning and behaviour is progressing.
- A meeting before your child returns to their 'home school'.
- If your child gets into serious trouble.

We will also ask you to complete a questionnaire that will help us understand your child more. This questionnaire will not take very long – about 20 minutes.

We will ask you to complete the same questionnaire again when your child is returning to school and after they have been at school for 6 months. This helps us know where improvements in your child's behaviour have been made.

Are there any social events?

From time to time, there may be a social event. Nothing too fancy, perhaps just a sausage sizzle. We like to involve the parents in the life of the Link's Centre community. It is also a good way to find out all the things that your child is experiencing and learning.

Will my child be attending any excursions?

Yes. There will be excursions throughout the time your child attends the Link Centre. There will also be one camp. Your child will help to organise the camp and this will help your child to learn a lot of new skills.