

THE BRIDGE – May 10

Purpose of The Bridge. To provide part-time or full time education for Darlington pupils in an alternative setting to a mainstream school. The Bridge is established as a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and works alongside the Phoenix Centre, the Home and Hospital Teaching Service (HHTS) and the monitoring of Elective Home Education (EHE). Courses are offered for pupils from Year 9 upwards. We currently have some pupils from Year 12 who are accessing courses. The figures below are as at May 10 and can vary enormously.

Our clientele. Our pupils fall into three main groups:

1. Pupils who are struggling in a mainstream setting and may be in danger of exclusion or have already been excluded. (28 pupils.)
2. EHE pupils, mainly from the traveller community, who want to access alternative provision. (29 pupils with 27 travellers.)
3. Post-16 pupils who are “not yet ready” for other education, employment or training. (4 pupils.)

Vocational provision. We offer a variety of vocational courses in-house and via other providers.

In-house provision:

- Catering
- Construction
- Bike maintenance.

External provision:

- Skills+ at Darlington College (Construction and motor vehicle.)
- Courses at Darlington College including Hair and Beauty
- Horticulture with Groundworks
- Courses at Clervaux via the Back on Track pilot
- Sport and Public Service via Outdoor Ambition
- Adventurous education with Outdoor Ambition
- Short courses in health and hygiene, first aid, etc.
- Work experience.

Basic Skills provision. To complement vocational courses we provide functional skills, GCSEs and other qualifications in:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- ICT.

Staffing. We have two teachers, five teaching assistants (and one at Darlington College), a trainer and an administrator.

Nigel Pell-Ilderton