

Re-thinking Engagement & Approaches to Learning



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Shaun Murphy
Championing the cause of the R.E.A.L.
Foundation Trust

"It doesn't get any more important than working with children of any age, and the work that the R.E.A.L. Foundation Trust is doing is something very close to my heart. I can relate to some of the experiences and stories shared by the students."

The R.E.A.L. Foundation Trust was established in 2008 to support creative educational solutions for children and young people, between the ages of 5 and 19, who are "lost to learning" or "hard to place". The reasons for this may be wide ranging and complex, so R.E.A.L. promotes a solution focussed approach which places students at the heart of their own learning.

Experience over many years has shown that exclusion from educational entitlement may happen for a broad range of reasons that include specific learning needs, intellectual disabilities or significant change and trauma. Very often the individuals, whose progress has been delayed by complexities of background circumstances, need to have their situation stabilised and supported in a sensitive and understanding manner in order to find a pathway towards engagement and future re-inclusion in their learning.

The R.E.A.L. Foundation Trust does this by focussing on the breadth of specific educational needs and factors influencing the progress of the children and young people and their families. It seeks to support and inspire students to work to their full potential and overcome the barriers to their learning that have previously hindered engagement, advancement and success.

The R.E.A.L. Foundation Trust seeks to raise the aspirations of hard to reach and disengaged young people and their families and strives to create a continuum of excellence in education that spreads beyond the school or academy gate and allows those who may struggle in a mainstream setting to reach their potential.

It is the R.E.A.L. Foundation Trust's vision to create outstanding provision and services that enable young people who have been marginalised by their exceptional and complex special needs to develop skills and capabilities that will enable them to become independent and employable adults who can interact and contribute positively within their communities.

R.E.A.L. Solutions

To create the right conditions to fulfil its aspirations, R.E.A.L. has stripped back the concept of Alternative Provision and has re-shaped its offer.

The R.E.A.L. Group of provisions demonstrates that there isn't a "one size fits all" approach, but acknowledges a changing continuum of needs during a student's re-engagement that may start with intensive one to one support but must always aspire towards collaboration in groups, in preparation for life and work skills. We have therefore created a range of integrated provisions, all quality managed to OFSTED standards, that include 1:1 support, vocational groups, GCSE study groups, school placements and transitioned support into mainstream educational and working environments.

Provisions include:

The R.E.A.L. Independent School

The R.E.A.L. Alternative Provision School

Mechanics

Construction

Digital Arts

Music Production

Hair & Beauty

Horticulture & Land Based Studies

Sport & Adventure

Hospitality & Catering

Venues now stretch across the East Midlands with potential for cross-border collaboration at a number of sites.



