



The Compass Course

A nine-session course to help secondary age students re-engage in education.

Youthscape

Course information and overview

Aims & Objectives

Compass is designed to help students gain the tools and skills they will need to reach their potential at GCSE and beyond. We do this through a programme that involves both formal teaching and experiential learning.

Compass course outcomes:

- Young people will have developed a higher level of self-worth and confidence
- Young people will have learnt effective ways to communicate and resolve issues positively
- Young people will know how to build positive and lasting relationships with other people
- Young people will be able to take responsibility for their own progress, and will be motivated to set achievable goals and make good decisions
- Young people will be aware of a range of coping methods and alternative ways to navigate their current circumstances
- Young people will have the skills needed to be more resilient and determined in dealing with different life issues that arise

Compass development areas:

- Commitment
- Character
- Competence
- Community
- Courage

Each day of Compass focuses on one of the above development areas. Each week we ask students to set goals around these areas so they can begin to see the practical impact of their learning in their daily life. We would ask the school and parents/carers of students to also encourage them to complete these goals.

Session Overview

- Day 1** 1:1 Induction in school
- Day 2** Commitment
- Day 3/4** Character (Residential)
- Day 5** Competence
- Day 6** 1:1 Mentoring
- Day 7** Community
- Day 8** Courage
- Day 9** 1:1 Follow up

“Compass has helped me make friends. I have learnt to cook. Learnt how to respect people more and being able to communicate why I am annoyed.”

Jake – Compass student

“The highs of the Compass course was the interaction that we had with the other kids and the adults... I also really liked the activities that we did like the survival school and the rock climbing... I had a really good time and I can't thank the Compass team and everyone who contributed to it enough.”

Chris – Compass student

The Compass Course: The Details

Logistical Details

What does a Compass day look like?

Young people who take part in the Compass course will have the opportunity to learn in an alternative environment, and will spend the day off the school site for 6 Tuesday's. The students will arrive at the Youthscape building (Bute Mills, 74 Bute Street, Luton Lu1 2EY) for 9am and will finished the day at 3pm.

Students will be taught by the Compass team for the whole day and will be provided with breakfast, break time snacks and lunch. Students don't need to bring anything with them, but they do need to come in clothes that they are happy to do physical activities in.

In the afternoon students may be taken to other locations for different activities, such as sports, in which case we will arrange and pay for any transport needed.

At the end of the day students are expected to make their own way home, either by public transport, walking or being picked up (as they would from school) and we cannot take responsibility for students once they have finished their day with us. With the exception of day 3, Tuesday 6th March we will arrange transport.

Residential

The third teaching day, Tuesday 16th - 17th October, is an extended session and includes an overnight residential. We will run teaching sessions as normal in the morning at Youthscape and then head out to Kingswood (Grosvenor Hall, Kent). The students will experience independent and team building activities and will have the chance to bond and push themselves to reach their full potential. This is a great opportunity for the students to grow and learn more about themselves and each other.

Compass Team Leader

Matt Allen



Matt is our NEET Prevention Specialist and has worked for Youthscape for five years. Matt and his team have on the ground experience of engaging young people across a wide range of contexts including in schools settings and Youthscape's Drop-In centre.

Survival School

Once a year in the summer term we take the students on Survival School. The students will learn a number of survival skills including shelter building. To encourage resilience and team building the young people will have the opportunity to spend the night in their self-made shelters and reflect together on this experience. This is always a highlight of the compass course for many of the young people who attend!

Course expectations and referral process

Behaviour Expectations

Compass Behaviour Guidelines

Respect: We ask students to treat themselves, the other students, the staff and any equipment or buildings used with respect and consideration.

Responsibility: We ask students to take responsibility for their own learning and actions. We do not accept students saying 'But he/she did this first' – each student is responsible for their own behaviour.

Relentless: Compass will be a challenging experience for many students, but we believe that overcoming challenges is a key to becoming successful, so we ask students to be relentless in any and all activities we ask them to take part in.

Youthscape holds a more detailed behaviour policy, which is displayed in our building, but we feel these overarching guidelines give students a clear idea of what we expect of them.

If a student were to fail to meet these guidelines they will be given a warning and if their behaviour persists they may be removed from sessions. If a student's behaviour is so persistent that it significantly disrupts the learning of other students, they may be removed from the course.

Smoking

Compass does not allow smoking.

If this is an issue for a specific student, we will need written consent from a parent/carer for the student to be taken to an appropriate place to smoke during break times only.

Mobile Phones:

Students are allowed to bring phones and other personal electronic devices with them, but they are their own responsibility and we cannot accept liability for loss or damage to any items. During teaching sessions, we will ask students to put their phones into a 'phone box', which is held by a leader until the session is over.

Referral Process

How do I refer a student?

If you would like to refer a young person to the compass course, please use the forms attached at the end of this document. Please make sure that the student matches the following criteria:

- Is in year 9
- Is at risk of becoming NEET
- Has been or is at risk of being excluded from school
- Struggles to manage their emotions

Introductory Session

What happens next?

Once a referral has been made, a member of the team will come to lead an induction session with the young person at school during school hours to determine whether the Compass Course would be helpful. This initial meeting to determine that the Compass program is right for the student and help form a group that will work well together.

“At some points it was challenging when we had to speak up in front of everyone, but it helped to build up our confidence.”

Lucy – Compass student