



Merrywood House

For boys and girls aged 11-16

Contact us Phone: 020 7928 7388 Email: enquiries@childhoodfirst.org.uk



**Childhood
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minds



www.childhoodfirst.org.uk

Merrywood House is a residential therapeutic community with nearly 10 years experience of providing specialist therapeutic care and treatment for a group of up to six young people aged 11-16. The home is half a mile down the lane from Earthsea House, in a fine, spacious property, with a large garden.

Merrywood House provides therapeutic care, treatment and education, and specialises in the treatment of young people who present severe emotional and behavioural problems, including sexualised behaviour, as a result of attachment difficulties usually rooted in early life trauma.

Through the use of our unique Integrated Systemic Therapy, which focuses on healing trauma and enabling healthy attachments and relationships, young people achieve exceptional outcomes in every aspect of their lives.

We have consistently been commended for the quality of our therapeutic provision. Our staff are highly trained to enable young people to work through their experiences of past trauma in a safe and comfortable environment designed for group living and learning. We provide a strong group-based culture which helps young people engage with their difficulties, and support one another in recovering and achieving their potential.

We aim to create a therapeutic environment in which we work with the young people enabling them to live together, learn and heal. We place much emphasis on caring and thoughtful relationships, and creating a sense of belonging. As a result, we deliver exceptional outcomes for the young people in our care, enabling them to move on to college, employment and independence with confidence and the skills necessary to succeed.

Education at Earthsea and Merrywood

Earthsea short stay school offers the full National Curriculum, with small classes allowing individual attention for each child. The school was singled out for particular praise, at a recent Norfolk short stay school inspection.

Childhood First works closely with Norfolk Education colleagues to ensure that the complex emotional and cognitive needs of all Merrywood House pupils are met within the short stay school or other appropriate local schools, as within the children's home.

Families & Networks

Our ability to work closely to support families, the professional network, and the Local Authority, has led to a number of our children being able to live within their own or another family setting.

The strength of our relationship with the Local Authority has been identified by HM Government as a model of excellence in corporate parenting.