



**KIDS**  
COMPANY



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**SCHOOLS PROGRAMME**

KIDS COMPANY WAS FOUNDED BY CAMILA BATMANGHELIDJH IN 1996. WE PROVIDE PRACTICAL, EMOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE INNER-CITY CHILDREN.

## KIDS COMPANY WORK IN INNER-CITY SCHOOLS

Our services are delivered through 41 schools in deprived areas, where we work with approximately 11,000 children.

We set up a room in each school in which a team of therapeutic workers seek to build trusted relationships with children in order to overcome the many and complex problems that they face. Where possible we give support to the parent, carer or guardian so that they can better nurture their own child. About half the children in our partner schools receive regular direct therapeutic intervention from Kids Company staff.

Children in our schools benefit from group activities in the school, day trips and outside visits, refurbishment of school premises and help organised by our staff in partnership with volunteers from our corporate supporters.







## THE KIDS COMPANY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Our aim is to see children flourish in all aspects of their lives, and to support both carers and schools in nurturing and caring for children in schools.

We help schools and staff to deal with the needs presented by children and families living in complex situations. We have a holistic approach and we will intervene practically, emotionally and educationally as agreed with the school.

- Each school is given a Kids Company Team Leader, usually a highly experienced therapist whose role is to lead a team within the school to meet the children's needs as well as coordinating the fun activities provided by volunteers.
- All other Kids Company workers are approved practitioners or trainees who are clinically and individually supervised once a week by senior mental health and social work staff. All vetting and barring procedures are thoroughly adhered to and there is a robust reference and interviewing process carried out by Kids Company head office team so that the administrative burden within the school is minimal.
- Kids Company endeavours to provide a fun and compassionate service for all children in the schools in which we work. Some of these children will participate in creative and sporting activities, while others may make use of more in-depth psychosocial interventions. As the whole school is offered some level of our inclusive service there is no stigma attached to accessing our support. We therefore receive consent from more than 95% of parents in relation to support offered to children.
- All employees and volunteers attend a general Kids Company induction and therapists also attend a school specific induction.
- We require each school to provide the Team Leader with a desk, a computer and lockable storage facilities, such as a filing cabinet, for efficiency and good record keeping. In addition we need access to a phone for confidential calls and a designated Kids Company therapy room, which we decorate and equip with therapeutic resources. We also require a link with one contact person from the school, usually the Special Educational Needs Coordinator.
- We take time to introduce ourselves directly to the children in school assembly in order to explain our work and what we offer. Children are able to refer themselves to any service we provide, making their requests in writing to us or by talking to the Kids Company staff in the school. We discuss all requests with school staff in confidence.
- We allow children to self-refer, thus reaching even the most withdrawn children who internalise their problems. It is often from the withdrawn children that the majority of disclosures of physical and sexual abuse emerge. School staff and parents can also refer children.
- All therapists in schools provide six reports per year on their work with individual pupils in the school. An annual review with the Head Teacher takes place and the Team Leader provides the school with an end-of-year overview.



*'The Kids Company Work in Schools' programme is an effective and personalised service aimed at providing targeted services for the most vulnerable, and universal services for all children and young people within the school environment. Teachers identified sustained therapeutic involvement as yielding positive outcomes in 89% of cases, while 69% of students believed that the absence of Kids Company in their school would have a profound negative impact on their life. Despite the sensitive nature of the cases being worked with, the evaluation uncovered no complaints or criticisms regarding poor practice or procedure in terms of child protection.'*

University of London, 2005 - 2008



The school can select any or all of the following services:

- **One-to-one therapeutic support** for school staff, parents and children, in school or after school hours. **Therapy using arts** such as drama, art, clay, sand, play and puppetry is most commonly provided to children in schools. Therapists use different techniques depending on their training and the needs of the child. Therapy provides a safe space in which difficulties can be explored in the context of a relationship with a trusted adult and their developing sense of self.
- **Group therapy** addresses specific themes such as shyness, bereavement, social and behavioural difficulties, transition groups, resilience and life skills.
- **Social work** to address the needs of families. Social work services are provided in most of the schools we currently work in. These are delivered by experienced social workers or social work trainees who run drop-in clinics and advice sessions, facilitate interventions with outside agencies, act as advocates for the children and young people and also visit families in their own homes.
- **Learning support and classroom assistance** including in-class support, reading groups, literacy support workshops, gifts of books from our publisher partners and targeted art workshops for children with particular difficulties as well as workshops focusing on the development of specific skills, notably leadership, for children in the year before secondary school.
- **Mentoring** where children can be matched with a mentor to spend time with them at weekends or after school. Mentors are trained by Kids Company and paired with children whose interests they share. They build a trusting relationship with their mentee by taking them out on trips, to exhibitions or concerts, and making themselves regularly available for discussion and advice.
- **Youth work** which provides fun activities and self-development programmes within or outside school hours.
- **Educational psychology assessments** as required by pupils with significant special educational needs.
- **Legal and advocacy advice** for families from our safeguarding team.
- **Specialist training** for school staff on practical applications of Kids Company's approach to emotional wellbeing and behaviour management.
- **Group support** for school staff to discuss relational difficulties within the classroom.
- **Complementary health therapies** for children, parents and school staff where available.
- **Massage in Schools programme** led by a Kids Company worker.
- **Nutritionists** to support families to eat in a healthy way, promoting physical and emotional wellbeing.
- **Improving the school environment** through painting murals, gardening, painting and decorating, creating libraries, etc.
- **Specialist support programmes** for families experiencing extreme poverty and related problems.
- **Class outings** to places of interest across London.
- **Artistic and sporting activities** throughout the school day.







## EVALUATION OF KIDS COMPANY IN SCHOOLS

Kids Company has been extensively evaluated by independent evaluators. Our work in schools was most recently evaluated over three years by the University of London (2005 -2008). Outlined below are some of the significant findings. A full report is available on request.

Based on findings from 3,383 children, University of London found the following results:



Universal Aims	Targeted Outcomes	Outcomes indicator measures	% Achieved
Improved emotional wellbeing	Engagement with therapy	Increased happiness Increased self-esteem	79%
	Improved anger management	Reduced fighting Reduced bullying Reduced anger	79%
Improved physical wellbeing (including health, surroundings and safety)	Improved peer relations	More friends Improved communication Improved ability to play with others	69%
Engagement in positive relationships	Engagement with therapy	Therapy uptake	100%
Engagement with education	Maintain engagement with education	Achieve academic attainment Improved concentration Reduced classroom disruption Improved grades	80%

For further information, please contact: The Schools Programme Manager at Kids company on 0207 202 2700

