

AND CAFÉ



Academy
Living



Orbis
education & care

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HELLO

and a warm welcome
from Academy Living by
Orbis Education and Care.



Orbis
education & care



Academy Living is a unique and progressive day service designed to support young people and adults with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition and its associated needs.

Based at two branches of **The Orb** in the communities of Porth and Morriston near Swansea, Academy Living offers continuous learning, hands-on, real-world, life and work skills, activities and optional accreditations. It is an alternative to a formal college placement, and can link in with schools as a transitional stepping-stone or act as a next step for school leavers.



WHAT IS ACADEMY LIVING?



Academy Living at The Orb is a perfect example of Active Support made real, and is clear proof that young people and adults with autism, given the right kind of support and guidance, can achieve in the real world. Employment for people with autism is high on the agenda and The Orb offers a stepping stone into the world of work.

Person-centred programmes are designed to enable individuals to continue to develop their living skills, gain essential hands-on work-skills and enjoy a range of social activities. Activities can be on or off-site.

Comprising of a range of environments, The Orb is a shop, a café, an office and a laundry located on the high streets of Porth and Morriston near Swansea. The Porth branch also offers a teaching kitchen.

Individuals can choose from a range of activities to create their own personalised programme, to reflect their personal choices, likes, strengths and needs. This follows a work skills assessment which is completed during the first session.



Ring & say hello

T: 029 2002 9922

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HOW DOES ACADEMY LIVING WORK?



When an individual decides to participate in an Academy Living programme our Work Skills Coordinator and Head of Academy Living carry out an initial assessment to identify current skills and interests, assess learning needs and evaluate opportunities for development and learning.

From this assessment a personalised plan is produced which identifies long and short term goals, ensuring that daily activities are meaningful and engaging. The plan is structured around the individual's needs and aspirations. Accredited courses are offered, however formal accreditations are not compulsory as the focus is on engagement and experience.

Support can be provided by the individual's existing support staff or by our experienced and skilled staff.

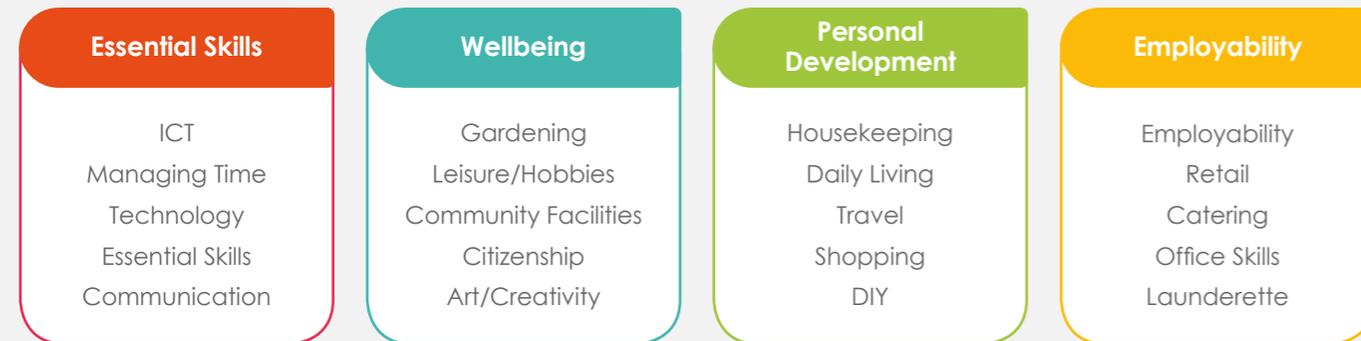


LIFELONG LEARNING PATHWAYS

For everyone who accesses The Orb, a learning pathway is created to inform the individual of the steps necessary to achieve the outcomes identified in their plan.

Pathways are made up of four broad areas: Essential Skills, Wellbeing, Personal Development and Employability.

Each of these areas is divided into sub-sections as shown below with each containing a wide range of activities. There are three broad pathways.



Pathway 1: Supported Living



Pathway 2: Life Skills / Work Skills



Pathway 3: Supported Employment





The orb

The hub of the Academy Living programme is **The Orb**. Both branches of The Orb provide a working shop, café, office and laundry, whilst the site in Porth also provides a kitchen. When the first branch was opened in 2015 it was featured on ITV Wales News and seen by 1.2 million viewers!

The Orb offers real working environments in which individuals can learn and develop new skills, whether cooking a meal, serving customers, handling money, stock management, pricing stock and lots more.

The Orb also encourages individuals to engage with and contribute to their local community, to interact with customers and develop personal relationships, offering roles and responsibilities and the respect and status that follow.

With the wide variety of activities on offer and the unique facilities at The Orb, **Academy Living** ensures a healthy balance of educational, social and recreational activities.





ACADEMY LIVING FAQs?



Do I have to be using other Orbis services to access Academy Living?

No. The service is open to anyone with a diagnosis of autism and/or a learning disability, including challenging and complex behaviour, sensory and communication difficulties, and social difficulties. Currently we work with individuals who require 1:1 or 2:1 support. All applications start with an assessment to ensure that the individuals' needs can be fully supported.

Is Academy Living only for people who are not in school?

No. The Orb can be accessed on a part-time basis, in conjunction with school or college as a transitional stepping stone, or on its own as a day service for those not in education. It can be accessed part-time or full-time, Monday to Friday, for 52 weeks through the year.

I sometimes display challenging behaviour. Can I still access Academy Living?

Yes. An assessment will help us to put the appropriate support in place for you.

I am non-verbal. Will I still be able to access Academy Living?

Yes. We can support all levels of ability and our staff are trained in Makaton and PECS. Communication objectives will be set as part of the programme to help you to progress.

When is Academy Living open?

The service is open for 52 weeks a year from Monday - Friday.

Will I be able to obtain qualifications?

Yes. Whilst formal education and accreditations are optional, we are a registered ASDAN assessment centre and everyone has the opportunity to work towards ASDAN accreditations as well as other work-related accreditations if this is part of the plan.

How long can I access The Orb for?

We can recommend a full and long-term plan of work-related, life-skills and leisure activities, including accreditations, or we can work according to part-time and short-term goals. Access could be for a year or longer, or it could be for a shorter time. The source and duration of funding must be agreed in advance of the placement starting.

What does it cost?

This depends on how much support is required and where that support is from. This can be discussed during the application process. For internal Orbis residents the daily fee is £36. For non-residents the standard daily fee starts at £50 but this is subject to conditions.

Who pays for the service?

Payment can come from a range of sources. Some schools are paying for The Orb via their own funds, whilst others have been paid for via social services or their health board. We can also accept direct or personal payments.

What else does Orbis Education and Care do?

As well as The Orb, Orbis runs a number of award-winning specialist services, including schools and residential homes for children and young people with a diagnosis of autism. We also offer community homes for adults, aged 19 and over.



HOW TO BECOME PART OF ACADEMY LIVING

To become part of the **Academy Living** scheme an individual can either be referred to us by parents, school, a careers advisor, through social services or their health board.

Once a referral has been made we will arrange for an assessment to take place to ensure that we can offer the appropriate support, and a full and meaningful programme of activities suited to the individual's needs, strengths and interests. A detailed plan is put in place which outlines how we are going to work through the programme. For a placement to commence, funding has to be agreed and in place in advance.

If you would like to find out more about Academy Living at The Orb visit www.academy-living.co.uk.

If you would like to enquire please contact us on **029 2002 9922**

or email us at enquiries@orbis-group.co.uk



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Orbis locations

Cardiff | Brecon | Newport | Swansea | Presteigne | Pembrokeshire | Port Talbot | Porth