

Marcus Thornton

Learning Mentor



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Education and Social Policy graduate from the University of Birmingham with practical experience in pastoral support, attendance intervention, and one-to-one mentoring across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Completed over **200 hours** of school placement working alongside pastoral teams, SENCOs, and family support workers. Skilled in solution-focused approaches, SMART target setting, and restorative practice. Passionate about removing barriers to learning for pupils facing social and emotional challenges. Enhanced DBS checked and Safeguarding Level 2 trained.

Experience

Sep 2024 – May 2025

Pastoral Support Placement, Hodge Hill College, Birmingham

Extended placement within the pastoral and inclusion team at a large secondary school with **1,200 pupils** and an Ofsted rating of Requires Improvement.

- Delivered a **10 week attendance intervention** for **12 persistent absentees in Year 9**, using weekly mentoring sessions and parent phone calls; average attendance improved from **72% to 86%** over the term
- Mentored **8 pupils individually** on a weekly basis, using **solution-focused techniques** and SMART target setting to address barriers including low self-esteem, friendship difficulties, and disengagement from lessons
- Attended **4 Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings** and contributed to **2 Early Help assessments** alongside the school's family support worker
- Supported **Year 6 to Year 7 transition** by running **3 induction sessions** for a group of **15 vulnerable pupils** identified by feeder primary schools

Jan 2024 – Jun 2024

Learning Support Placement, King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy, Birmingham

Second year placement in a secondary school supporting the inclusion team with pastoral care and in-class learning support.

- Provided in-class support across **English, Maths, and Science lessons** for **Year 8 and Year 9 pupils** identified as underachieving
- Ran a **weekly lunchtime homework club** attended by an average of **10 pupils**, providing a quiet space and one-to-one help with assignments
- Used **restorative practice conversations** to support **6 pupils** returning to lessons after fixed-term exclusions

Jan 2023 – Aug 2024

Youth Sports Coach (Part-Time), Aston Villa Foundation, Birmingham

Part-time coaching role delivering football sessions to young people aged 11 to 16 in community settings across east Birmingham.

- Coached **3 weekly sessions** for groups of **15 to 20 young people**, many of whom were referred by schools and youth offending teams
- Built relationships with **hard to reach young people** and supported **4 individuals** in re-engaging with education or training
- Completed the charity's **safeguarding and mentoring training programme**

Education

Sep 2022 – Jul 2025

BA (Hons) Education and Social Policy in Education and Social Policy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham

Graduated with Upper Second Class Honours (**2:1, 64% average**). Dissertation on *the impact of persistent absence on GCSE attainment in schools serving areas of high deprivation*, graded **69%**.

- Modules: Education Policy, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Social Exclusion and Inequality, Mentoring Theory and Practice, Youth Transitions
- Completed **200+ hours** of school-based placement across two contrasting secondary schools

Skills

One-to-One Mentoring (KS3 & KS4), Attendance Monitoring and Intervention, Solution-Focused Approaches, SMART Target Setting, Restorative Practice, Transition Support (Year 6 to 7), Multi-Agency Working (TAF, Early Help), Safeguarding (Level 2), CPOMS Behaviour and Welfare Recording, Parent and Carer Communication

Certifications

Aug 2024 – Aug 2024

Enhanced DBS Certificate, Disclosure and Barring Service

Sep 2024 – Sep 2024

Level 2 Safeguarding Children, EduCare

Nov 2024 – Nov 2024

Restorative Practice Training (2-day), Transforming Conflict

Mar 2023 – Mar 2023

FA Level 1 Football Coaching, The Football Association

Languages

English - Native

References

Mrs. Sandra Osei, Head of Inclusion, Hodge Hill College, s.osei@hodgehill.bham.sch.uk, +44 121 783 4526

Extra Curricular Activity

Sep 2023 – Jun 2025

Peer Mentor, University of Birmingham Student Support

Trained peer mentor supporting first-year students with their transition to university life.

- Mentored **6 incoming students** each academic year through fortnightly check-ins and group social events
- Completed **16 hours of mentoring skills training** covering active listening, boundaries, and signposting to university services

Sep 2022 – Jun 2023

Volunteer Football Coach, Heartlands Academy Community Programme

Volunteered as an assistant coach for the Saturday morning community football programme.

- Supported sessions for **25 to 30 young people** aged 8 to 14 from the local Nechells and Bordesley Green area
- Helped organise **2 community tournaments** attracting **8 local teams**