

Residential Courses



About Us

The Fluency Trust is a registered charity, who work in partnership with **Swindon Borough Council** to run highly specialist residential courses for young people who stammer.

Since 1995, our pioneering courses combine intensive speech therapy with outdoor pursuits and led to the development of the award-winning Swindon Packs.

The combination of challenging activities and intensive therapy is highly effective in developing confidence, resilience and the ability to manage the emotional and physical challenges of stammering.

In 2017, a Care Quality Commission's (CQC) inspection of SBC Children's Health Services described the Swindon Stammering Services as 'outstanding'.

Course Aims

Our residential courses for 10-17 years, who stammer, run annually in the summer holidays.

The aims of the course are:

- To develop confidence in communicating
- To feel more positive about speaking and less bothered about stammering
- To develop strategies to be able to manage stammering
- To build resilience to be able to manage challenging situations
- To develop flexible thinking skills



Course Includes	Groups Available	How to refer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction Day ● Five day residential course ● Follow-up day ● Report, liaison with professionals <p>The Introduction day and follow up day are held in Swindon. The residential course is held at Skern Lodge Activity Centre.</p> <p>It is vital that you can commit to all the dates and all the parent sessions.</p>	<p>The Blockbuster (10-13 years) and Teen's Challenge (13-17 years) groups run alongside each other.</p> <p>There are 10 places in each group.</p> <p>One young person each year is selected to join us again as a mentor.</p>	<p>Complete our referral form to secure your child's place.</p> <p>Early referral is essential.</p> <p>Engage your local speech and language therapy service re: funding.</p>

How can I refer my child?

Referrals can be made by parents or through a Speech and Language Therapist.

Please complete our **referral form**, which can be found on our website. Your Speech and Language Therapist may be able to complete this for you. We encourage referrals through a Speech and Language Therapist because of the importance of follow up support after the course.

We have 10 places for Blockbuster and 10 places for the Teens Challenge groups. Early referral is essential. Once these places are full, further referrals will be placed on a reserve list

What happens after the referral is sent?

As referral forms are received we will put the young person's name on our course list and an acknowledgement will be sent via email either to you and/ or your therapist.

Your therapist should inform you that your child's referral has been received.

If we require further information after receiving the referral, we will contact you

How are the courses funded?

The Fluency Trust work in partnership with Swindon Borough Council. The charity fund raise to pay for the residential centre, all the activities and transport costs to and from the centre. It does not cover the costs of the speech and language therapy element. The speech and language therapy provision is currently provided by Swindon Borough Council, this means that the speech and language therapist's time is funded by SBC.

Do I have to pay for my child to come on the course?

There are two elements of the residential courses. The residential aspect (the centre, activities and transport) is fully funded by The Fluency Trust Charity for all children. The speech and language therapy element of the course must be funded. For children who live in Swindon, this is currently funded by SBC. For children outside of the Swindon area, this should be funded by your local speech and language therapy provider organisation. Your speech and language therapist should be able to support you in applying for this funding. If application for funding (for the speech and language element) from your provider organisation is unsuccessful, parents may choose to fund this themselves or explore local funding organisations e.g. schools, rotary, local charities. If you require further information or support with this, please contact us. The cost for this element for 2025 is £480.

When do I have to pay?

For provider services invoices will be sent following the residential course and prior to the follow up day. For those self-funding invoices will be sent after the introduction day as per our payment policy.

What does my child need to bring?

Full details of what your child needs to bring will be given to you on the introduction day. Please contact us if you would like a copy of the kit list before this time.

Where do referrals come from?

Referrals to the courses come from all over the country. Children will meet each other when they attend the introduction day in Swindon.

What is expected of us as parents/ carers?

You will be allocated one day during the introduction weekend. You will be told a month before, which day you need to attend. The Introduction day takes place in Swindon. You will need to bring and collect your child from Swindon when the course week takes place. There will be parent's sessions held on the Monday and Friday of the course, which it is vital that you attend. A follow up day will be held in Swindon, approximately 8 weeks after the course. It is vital that you attend this. All the details that you need will be provided at the introduction day.

How do we ensure the safety of your child?

The staff at the residential centre where the courses are held are all employed and the safety and training for their roles assured by their organisation. The information is available at **Skern Lodge**.

All therapists who attend the course have appropriate safeguarding training and current DBS as per their local organisation's policy. Details of **The Fluency Trust safeguarding policy** can be found on our website.



Our 2025 course was made possible thanks to #NationalLottery players

