

CYCLE TRAINING UK

Southwark Inclusive Learning Service

Cycle Maintenance Training for inclusive learning

- CLIENT:** Southwark Inclusive Learning Key Stage 3 (SILS 3)
- OVERVIEW:** A cycle maintenance course for young people at risk of exclusion from mainstream schools
- AIMS:** To engage young people through a practical, challenging cycle maintenance project, to build up work place skills and to gain a cycle maintenance certification

Southwark Inclusive Learning Service (SILS) provides short stay provision for students at risk of exclusion from mainstream schools. Their goal is the successful reengagement with learning and mainstream education for their students. As a way to support kinesthetic learners, SILS looked to establish a cycle maintenance workshop to complement programmes such as art psychotherapy, music production and gardening. 'There is a real bike culture in the area. All the young people have bikes, fix their bikes or their friend's bikes. It made sense to capitalise on something that is considered as 'cool', that will deliver useful skills and a qualification' said SILS 3 Headteacher Yomi Adewoye .

Establishing the programme:

CTUK worked with the school to design the workshop and equip it. The syllabus, outcomes and expectations were discussed and established with the school. Recovered bikes were obtained from the police, who have close contacts with the school. Taster sessions were arranged so that all members of the school had the opportunity to find out about the course.

Course outline:

Each session is 1.5 hours, one instructor teaches up to three students and the entire course is run over the full school year. Early on the CTUK trainer at the SILS centre discovered that a set course outline and traditional teaching method was not appropriate: 'Every week the students bring in something new to work on which means that a set syllabus was just not doable. It makes for a challenging yet really dynamic way of teaching. It keeps me on my toes and it's an environment where students thrive. In addition, I encourage all members of the school to bring their bikes along for repairs and servicing.' Ian Pearson, CTUK Instructor at the SILS programme.

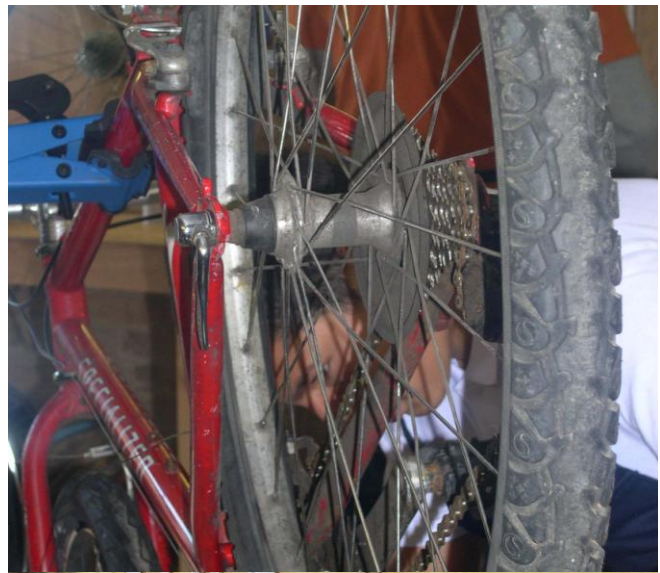
Developing the programme:

SILS 3 is keen to share the resources and space with the community and neighbouring mainstream schools.

'We have a great facility and want to open it up to the local community so adult and young people can come and use it. As well as community engagement we would welcome the opportunity to share the resources with mainstream schools.'

'My advice for any organisation considering a similar programme is to 'go for it'. It is an excellent way to engage students. Some of the students here have asked for maintenances lessons to be increased to twice a week...or all week. We don't get this enthusiasm for traditional learning!'

Yomi Adewoye, Headteacher



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For more information on cycle maintenance training in schools including City & Guilds: Andy: T: 0207 232 4390 E: andy@cycletraining.co.uk