

ASSOCIATE

LOUISE RILEY

“Three simple words will help you change the life of a young person, ‘Give a damn!’”



For Louise, when it comes to discipline, behaviour and bringing the best out of even our most troubled young people, it all boils down to relationships.

And with many years' experience on the front line in some quite challenging inner city schools in Manchester, Merseyside and The Potteries, combined with acting as a Chair of Governors at an all-through special school, who are we to argue with her?

In late 2015 Louise's commitment and professionalism in working with our most vulnerable young people was noticed and she was 'headhunted' for a role as an Improvement Director for Vulnerable Children in a nationwide academy trust.

Here, apart from working across the Trust's schools to ensure they are offering the very best provision for all their students, Louise's work also includes developing a creative arts strategy to support the Trust's work on 'character development'.

Prior to this position, Louise has been a vice principal with a specific brief for inclusion, has headed up a Pupil Referral Unit, has been an

Alternative Provision coordinator and, through her role as a special school Chair of Governors, oversaw the move to a new school building and the creation of a cooperative trust that now comprises all of the special schools in Stoke.

In her leadership, coaching and training roles she has supported colleagues in a number of critical school improvement areas in recent years including:

- Middle leadership development
- Behavioural management techniques
- Safeguarding protocols; schools and independent providers
- The art of feedback
- Questioning techniques
- Teaching over time
- Alternative provision standards
- A case study for the NCSL
- Inclusion project for Cambridge University

She is adamant that the 'quick fix' mentality that so many schools seem forced to go down when working with children with clear social and

emotional challenges does more harm than good. It's a way of working with young people that has, in her words, 'no heart beat or pulse' and goes against the idea of seeing time spent with young people in terms of an investment.

'If you want to make a difference then invest time in getting to really know and understand these amazing individuals who surround you every day. Loyalty knows no bounds.'

A passionate advocate of student voice and participation, Louise describes her 'wrap-around approach' as one which combines trust and respect in a way that allows learning to take place.

Books written by Louise Riley:

- *The Working Class (contributor)*

Louise has been with Independent Thinking since January 2016.

All Independent Thinking Associates are DBS checked.

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www.independentthinking.co.uk
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