

## “I just couldn’t fit”

asphaleia has worked for many years with young asylum seeking children, in both Worthing and Uxbridge, teaching them English as well as many important life skills. This is the story of one of them...



*“First I was at a village school; then we had to move because of trouble, so I missed a year. When I was 11, I got a scholarship to a secondary school in another town. I was there for three years but I left in the middle of the third year because we had to move again because of the trouble. So I missed three years of my secondary schooling.*

*“In Somalia I didn’t go to school for four and a half years. I went to primary school when I was seven for four months and we had to leave because of the war. We tried to get to Ethiopia but we couldn’t get in. For two years we lived under the trees in a place between Ethiopia and Somalia.*

*“We had to move all the time. The army occupied, and we moved away, away, away... and finally I got to Germany. In Germany I attended school for one year while living with my uncle and then I finally joined my father in London. I went to secondary school for two years and then to college. It was pretty terrible. I wouldn’t blame anyone – I just couldn’t fit. It took two years to improve my English.”*

asphaleia has unique reception programmes for young people arriving in the U.K. without parental care or guardianship, including those who are at risk of being trafficked. We provide lessons and workshops that aim to acclimatise young people to U.K. culture and language. As well as ICT and numeracy, lessons include English for speakers of other languages, better known as ESOL. We offer this at pre-entry level and entry levels 1, 2 and 3. For many young people, like our case study above, they will start their learning at pre-entry level as most will not have attended school in their home countries; some are even illiterate in their own language and need specialised 1-1 support.

Our programmes aim to support young people during and after their learning programmes so that they are fully prepared and guided through their transition into mainstream education or other progression, including in-school mentoring.

asphaleia action takes an holistic approach to learning and development. As well as engaging young people in a classroom setting we provide work tasters, drop-in clubs and a variety of holiday activities and team building exercises thus offering new opportunities and experiences to all of our young people. If you would like any further information about programmes offered, please contact us via our website: [www.asphaleia.co.uk](http://www.asphaleia.co.uk) or on 01903 522966.