

Our Local Offer

Downlands is a Level 2 Rights Respecting School and believes in the Rights of the Child as the United Nations Convention sets out.

As a serving member of the Armed Forces you are in a unique environment and we at Downlands recognise this and endeavour to make the transition from school to school as smooth as possible for both you and your child.

As a school we are proactive in identifying any difficulties that could hamper your child's academic or social progress. We are acutely aware that transition times can hamper progress in a variety of ways. We endeavour to work with you and your child to get the best possible outcome so that your child enjoys their learning and gains the key skills needed to being a good learner in the way they learn best.

Throughout this Local Offer 'teacher' refers to either the child's class teacher or keyworker.

Please do not hesitate to contact the relevant SENCO if you have any questions or concerns.

Contact Name

Downlands School SENCO –
Mrs Christine Goodall

Contact Telephone

Downlands School- 01258 453348

Contact Email

Downlands School -
office@downlandsschool.org

Contact Name

Dandelions Pre School SENCO –
Miss Jess Pearson

Contact Telephone

Dandelions Pre School- 01258 489914

Contact Email

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dandelions@downlandsschool.org

How does the school know if children/young people need extra help and what should I do if I think my child/ may have special educational needs?

Every child is different and they all develop at different rates but it may become apparent that they are having specific difficulties. At this stage don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Downlands staff are dedicated and well trained to support your child.

How will school staff support my child/young person?

Having assessed your child and discussed concerns the teacher will identify areas of need. They will then plan a programme of interventions that will support your child. The teacher will monitor and review the progress made, through the plan, do, review cycle alongside the SENCO. Some children's needs will require an application for an Education Health and Care Plan, a formal statutory document which details the child's specific needs. This application will involve input from outside specialist agencies, the SENCO, the teacher, the parents and the child themselves. The decision of this application may result in additional funding to further support the child.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

As far as possible all children follow the National Curriculum (NC) or Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Children with SEN may need adjustments to enable them to fully access the learning. This may include:

- Differentiated targets
- Specific resources
- Additional support from the teaching assistant or teacher
- Changes to the environment
- The teacher may seek assessments and support from outside agencies.

How will all stakeholders know how my child/young person is doing and how will you help me to support my child's/young person's learning?

An on-going system of assessment and review is in place for all children to monitor their progress. Parents are kept informed through termly parent consultations, and for children with SEN more frequent meetings may be arranged. For all children in reception and above termly reports which outlines the child's current attainment are written. For children with SEN this includes specific information on the current level of support and interventions they are receiving. We believe that a close working relationship between home and school is essential so please keep us informed of any home changes which may affect your child's wellbeing. We operate an Open Door Policy but should you need an appointment there are many ways to communicate with us and vice versa. These include:

- Emailed Newsletters
- Home/school Contact Books in EYFS and Key stage 1(KS1)
- Website
- Individual Portfolios
- Reports
- Phone calls
- Face to face appointments
- Informal chats

You can contact teachers by:

- Arranging a meeting yourselves with the teacher
- Phoning or emailing the office
- Sending a letter and/or note
- Using the Home School Contact book.

What support will there be for my child's/young person's overall well being?

Here at Downlands we believe that it is important that your child settles quickly and feels happy and safe in the school environment. When they first arrive two buddies will show them around the school and play with and support them during their first week. Children and parents may sometimes need additional support to ensure their child continues to make progress in their learning.. This may include:

- Family Jigsaw
- ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)
- Family Strengthening Sessions
- Home visits in Dandelions
- Following the I Can Problem Solve training programme
- Signposting parents to further training outside of the school.

The school has an Open Door Policy and parents are always welcome. They are encouraged to take an active role in their child's learning and development, through sharing and reinforcing learning at home and participation in school and community events

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

Downlands Primary is able to access a range of specialist outside agencies and services such as: -

- Educational Psychologist
- SENSS (Special Educational Needs Support Service)
- Speech and Language Service
- School Nurse Drop Ins
- Family Partnership Zone
- CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Portage for EYFS children
- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- AWF (Army Welfare Service)
- SSAFA
- HIVE (Information Centre)
- Paediatricians

We also work closely with other specific services as required In addition on camp

What training have the staff had to support my child?

We access an extensive range of knowledge specific training courses, which are provided by Dorset Council and other awarding bodies. Knowledge and expertise is also shared within the school. Some of these courses include:

- Learn to Move, Move to Learn.
- ELSA accreditation
- National Award in Special Educational Needs Coordination.
- First Class Maths
- ASD training
- I Can Problem Solve
- Letters and Sounds
- Attachment disorder training
- Speech and Language
- English as an Additional Language
- Understanding Children's Behaviour

How will my child/young person be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

All children are included in all that we do at Downlands Primary School.

Risk assessments are completed for all off-site activities and this highlights any adjustments we need to make for specific children.

Parents are kept informed and their knowledge of their children is welcomed.

How accessible is the school environment?

Downlands will always work with parents/carers and young person to identify and address needs within the school, in collaboration with other services such as OT. Dieticians, Physiotherapists, Remap, etc.

The school is fully accessible to all users, as despite being on two levels, the platform lift operates to ensure access to the hall and office area and there is a disabled toilet facility and disabled parking. The main office has a device that aids the hard of hearing to ensure good communication for all and All classrooms and the hall have acoustic paneling to improve the auditory environment.

How will the school prepare and support my child in the transition to the next stage of education and life?

Staff from all areas of the school work closely together to ensure a smooth transition from the Pre - School to Reception. From the Spring term we offer short visits for the children who are due to start in Reception in September, to the Reception Base. Informative parent meetings and welcome packs are also arranged and distributed. Children arriving mid-term are closely monitored and supported as needed to settle, make friends and become familiar with the school routines. Year 6 children with SEN are offered additional small group visits to The Blandford School to help them become familiar with the new environment. Staff and children from The Blandford School visit us during the Summer term and talk to the children about the transition.

Where can I get further information about SEN support in Dorset?

Dorset Council produce a SEN newsletter which can be emailed directly to you. It features important information and updates about support and services available for you and your child and sign posting to other useful services. It also gives the opportunity to give feedback.

To sign up to this newsletter register at <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/about-our-local-offer/sign-up-to-our-sen-newsletter.aspx>