



DRONFIELD INFANT SCHOOL

Learning Together:
Believing and
Achieving

WELCOME TO DRONFIELD INFANT SCHOOL

Foreword: Mrs Rebecca King, Headteacher, says...

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our wonderful school. At Dronfield Infant School, we create a happy and safe learning environment. We believe in developing the whole child and that is reflected in everything we do. We have lots to be proud of and we want everyone to share this with us.

Our endeavour

As a community with our teachers, parents, carers and staff we aim to make sure that all of our children thrive to become:

- Confident.
- Resilient.
- Independent.
- Curious.
- Respectful, tolerant, and responsible citizens.

Create, challenge and celebrate

Our school nurtures the children's development in a safe and happy environment. As all of our children progress, we celebrate their achievements as a community, involving our parents and carers at every step of their child's learning journey.

Progressive and exciting

Our curriculum is progressive, ambitious, and exciting. It is designed to motivate learning, promote creativity and curiosity, and provide engaging challenges for all of our children.

Reaching their potential

We have high expectations for all children in our care as we want them to be the very best they can be and feel successful in their own personal learning.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here... and increase your child's enjoyment of learning as they progress through the school.

Get in touch

I hope that our prospectus gives you an insight and understanding of our core values of; learning together, believing in ourselves, and being the best that we can be. We would be delighted to welcome you to our school. Please call the school office on 01246 412302 to arrange a visit and see for yourselves why our school is so special.

Our Values, Ethos and Vision

At Dronfield Infant School we firmly believe that school should be a happy and safe place for every child to learn and reach their full potential. As a school we endeavour to make sure that all of our children become:

- Confident, resilient and successful learners.
- Independent, life-long learners.
- Respectful of themselves and others, showing tolerance and becoming responsible citizens, locally and globally.



Amber knows a good thing when she sees it, and that is why she chose Dronfield Infant School for her daughter

Amber and Laurence live in Dronfield with their children Eira, six and Colton, two.

Seeing is believing

Working with young children herself, Amber has a professional insight into early years and primary education so when it was time for Eira to start school, it was Dronfield Infants which stood out for her. "There are some great schools in the area but what I loved about Dronfield Infants was the overall atmosphere, the resources and especially the emphasis on learning through play, which is something I'm a big believer in."

Getting to know you

The school offers a phased introduction for reception children, so that they start with half days and half the year group, and that gives the teachers the chance to get to know each child well. "I am really impressed by how the staff know each child individually," says Amber. "Not just their names but their interests, personalities and their needs."

Reassurance

That is of particular reassurance to Amber as, from personal experience, she is fully aware that the SEND provision is very proactive, and that any child who is deemed to have additional needs is given help wherever possible. "I have seen for myself how the children's specific needs are identified early, even before a formal diagnosis has been made, and measures put in place to ensure they are supported appropriately."

The best of both worlds

Dronfield is a relatively large school and a recent restructuring programme has involved the introduction of mixed-year classes. At first, Amber admits, she had reservations. "I wasn't sure if that might hold Eira back academically, or that she could struggle to keep up in a more desk-based environment, but in fact it has worked out better than I anticipated," she explains.

"In many ways it is the best of both worlds and she is absolutely on point with her learning, with access to both the more play-based EYFS and to more structured KS1 education."

Smooth transition

Prior to enrolling at Dronfield, Eira attended a nursery elsewhere but Amber is delighted that Dronfield has now accommodated a charity-run nursery on the school site, and which will be a feeder into reception at Dronfield. "When Eira started in reception she didn't know anyone in her class but it will be great when Colton joins as he will be moving up with friends." In the same way, Dronfield Infants is a feeder school to the adjacent junior school. "Having the three settings in such close proximity is ideal in terms of transition," says Amber. "It makes life much easier for everyone!"

Getting it right

Having seen the way Eira has been cared for at Dronfield, where she is in her last year, Amber is confident that it will also be the right setting for Colton when it's his turn. "Colton is very different to his sister, but knowing how the teachers take personal interest in all the children, I know he will flourish in the same way that Eira has. I have no hesitation in saying that Dronfield Infants is an absolutely brilliant school, and we've been lucky to have it so close."

SCHOOL DAY: SETTLING IN

School hours

- In EYFS school sessions are 8.45 am – 3.15 pm.
- In Key Stage 1 school sessions are 8.55 am – 3.25 pm.

The children in EYFS come into school at 8.45am and we ask that your child be accompanied to and from school by a parent/carer. Please do not bring your children to school before 8.35am as the playground is used by School Lane Kids Breakfast Club. The children in Years 1 and 2 come into school at 8.55am and we ask that the children are accompanied to and from school by a parent/carer.

Wraparound clubs

Breakfast Club

We offer a daily Breakfast Club in school which starts at 7.30am. Parents can drop off children anytime between 7.30am and 8.45am and the children enjoy breakfast with their friends and time to play for a short while before going to their classes at 8.45 am. The club is managed by School Lane Kids Club and is situated in the school hall at Dronfield Infant School.

After School Club

After School Club ends at 6.00 pm. The club is run by School Lane Kids Club. Although the club works closely with the school it is a separate childcare company and places can be booked directly with them. Please call School Lane Kids Club on: 01246 290880 for more details.

Uniform

The uniform helps our children to develop a sense of belonging to the school and to identify with our values and expectations. Our uniform is kept as

simple and practical as possible and our school colours are red, grey, navy, white and black. We ask that children wear their PE Kit to school on the day that they have PE lessons.

You can order uniform from:

<https://myclothing.com>
<https://www.schooltrends.co.uk>

Children may wear:

- Red sweatshirts, jumpers, sweat cardigans or cardigans.
- White polo shirts
- Grey, black or navy skirts, trousers, shorts, or, pinafore dresses.

Alternative summer clothing:

- Gingham or striped dresses or jumpsuits
- Black, grey or navy shorts
- Sweatshirts, fleeces, reversible coats, polo shirts and green T shirts for PE bearing the School logo can all be ordered from the websites above. These will be delivered to you directly when ordered online.

We recommend that parents purchase at least one jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan and PE T Shirt bearing the school logo, otherwise parents are free to purchase red sweaters, jumpers, cardigans and white polo shirts from other retailers, e.g. supermarket school uniform ranges, along with the other uniform requirements (trousers, dresses, skirts, shorts, etc.)

All clothing should be marked with the child's name.

PE KIT:

- Green T shirt with school logo

- Black or navy shorts, jogging pants or leggings
- Children should wear black plimsolls for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE.

School meals and snacks

School meals are free to all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils. School meals are made fresh on the premises in our own kitchen by the Local Authority Catering Service. Children taking school lunches are served with water or squash at lunchtime. The children decide what they would like to eat but they are gently encouraged to try new foods. If you would prefer, your child may bring a packed lunch in a labelled lunch box.

As we are a health promoting school, fizzy drinks, chocolates, and sweets are not allowed. Please do not send any nut products in your child's lunchbox as we have some children in school with nut allergies.

Break-time and drinks

Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 receive free daily fruit as a snack at morning break. We do not allow chocolate or biscuits at break time as snacks. Sweets and fizzy drinks are also not allowed in school at any time. All children are encouraged to bring their own, labelled, water bottle into school with them every day. This is for water only, and can be refilled during the day using our water dispensers located outside the classrooms.

Milk

Milk is free to all children until they are five or in receipt of statutory free school meals. Other children can have this milk for a small fee. To subscribe to this service please go to: <http://www.coolmilk.com> or speak to a member of staff at the school office.



Sarah and David listened to advice from people they trusted, and are so glad that it was to choose Dronfield Infant School for their children

Sarah and David's daughter Sophie, six, attends Dronfield Infant School, and son Leo, four, is in the nursery on site.

Informed choice

There are many reasons behind choosing a school for your children, but location and reputation must be two of the most important. For Sarah and David, they were fortunate enough to have both those things to advise them and that is why Sophie, shortly to be joined by her brother Leo, is at Dronfield Infant School.

Highly recommended

"Having a school near to where we live was obviously an important factor in our choice, but by no means the only one. Dronfield was recommended to us by friends whose children had also been there, and that was the deciding factor. We've not been disappointed."

A nurturing environment

Both David and Sarah, having visited the school prior to enrolling Sophie, were impressed by the warm and welcoming atmosphere. "We both felt that this was a caring environment; somewhere we felt that Sophie would be nurtured and happy. We felt at ease with the reception we were given and believed that this was somewhere our daughter would fit in really well."

Quality

And so it has proved. "Speaking personally, and with our children's very best interests at heart, I believe that we have found a really great school for Sophie, and for Leo. The ethos of Dronfield is amazing – it's well run, well organized and the quality of teaching is excellent. Staff are approachable and always available for an informal chat if needed. We can't think of any negatives."

Respect

David also mentions the high standard of behaviour shown by the pupils. "There appears to be an excellent rapport between teachers and pupils which gives us confidence in the way they manage things".

Familiarity

With the new nursery, Dronfield Infants and the Junior school all adjacent to each other, transition to and from each setting is ideal. "It's lovely that both Leo and Sophie are likely to be moving up to the next stage alongside their friends, and in familiar surroundings. All in all, we feel we could not have done any better for our children."



CREATIVE AND MOTIVATING CURRICULUM: ENCOURAGING CONFIDENT, INQUISITIVE, AND INDEPENDENT LEARNERS

Exciting, relevant and full of opportunities

At Dronfield Infant School we strive to provide a curriculum that is both creative and motivating for all our pupils. Through our broad and balanced curriculum, we endeavour to ensure that the individual needs of every child are met and that the social, moral, spiritual, cultural, and emotional needs of our children are also met through our teaching.

We know that children learn in many different ways and when planning our lessons, we take into account the children's developing learning skills through following their interests and allowing children the freedom to investigate the world around them, building their confidence and motivation to learn and achieve.

Music

The children love their weekly music lesson and in addition to this the children have access to a weekly signing assembly where songs and rhymes are learned with an emphasis of all our children joining in. We also encourage opportunities for small singing groups and solo singing during our class and school performances. Children are encouraged to play a range of musical instruments within their weekly music lesson and have access to visiting performers who showcase different instrumental music and allow the children to join in.

Trips:

Examples of our trips include:

- Emergency Services Museum.
- North Anston Butterfly House.
- Yorkshire Wildlife Park.
- Chatsworth Farm Park and Gardens.
- Western Park Museum.
- The National Railway Museum.

Visitors

We have an interesting mix of visitors who come into school and provide our learners with real life experiences that can help them relate what they learn at school to the world around them and to connect with our community and help our children develop confidence when meeting new people. Visitors into school include:

- Local Police Force
- Local Fire Service
- Local Vet
- Local Church Groups
- School Nurse
- Sports Coaches (Tennis, Cricket, Dance, Multi-Sports)
- Wheely Fun Wheels (Balance Bikes)
- Partake Theatre Company
- Dance Groups
- Theatre Companies
- The Planetarium Experience
- The Owl Experience

Sport and P.E.

We follow the National Curriculum for PE with each child encouraged to participate in at least two hours of physical activity each week. Our aim is to support our children to develop and harness the fundamental skills needed to enjoy sport and physical activity. Lessons involve a range of classes from dance to team sports and gymnastics. Every child will be given the opportunity to take part in sporting activities at different sporting venues throughout the year, sometimes taking part in inter-school competitions. Everyone looks forward to Sports Day and we approach this fun day with respect for others.

We are part of the Sports Premium programme and therefore our aim is that all pupils at our school are physically literate and have the knowledge, skills, and motivation necessary to equip them for a healthy and active lifestyle. Our commitment to sporting activity and promoting healthy lifestyles helps all of our children to continue to further develop their skills and enjoyment of sports and physical activity through KS2.

Wide range of clubs

We have a good range of after school clubs. Examples include:

- Dance & Drama Club (Razzamataz)
- Football
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Tennis



Four children, four different personalities, one school to address each individual need. That's what Mark and Helen have discovered at Dronfield Infant School

Helen and Mark's three daughters have all attended Dronfield Infant School. Lily, 12, Darcey, nine and Phoebe, seven, have now moved up to Junior and Secondary school, and Jude, five, has just started in Reception.

Stand out choice

Only Jude is still at Dronfield but having been delighted with their older children's experience of the school, Helen and Mark know that he will benefit in the same way as his siblings. "We moved to the area mainly because of the schools, and having visited several, it was Dronfield which stood out for us," says Mark. "There was an overall impression of warmth and we felt sure it was a good environment for our children."

The whole child

Helen agrees: "The emphasis is not solely on academic achievement but on provision for the whole child. We have no complaints whatsoever about their education, but what we really appreciate is that every child's own needs are addressed and catered for effectively."

Support

Mark and Helen cite instances where this approach has been invaluable to their children, including when Phoebe was struggling following the upheaval during the Covid pandemic. "Phoebe was quite badly affected and for a while was unable to speak with adults, but the school helped a great deal with her social development. Now, you would not know that she had had any problems at all, and she is back to her happy, sociable self." Additionally, both Darcey and Lily received speech and language support in Reception, which has made a big difference.

Overcoming challenges

Like every other school, Dronfield had major challenges to face during the pandemic but Helen and Mark were impressed with how well the school coped. "They sent us worksheets as well as videos the staff had made themselves so that the children still felt engaged and able to keep up with their learning as far as possible. I really don't think the children suffered too much, despite all the difficulties."

Physical wellbeing

As a sports coach, Mark is aware of the value of physical education and although Dronfield has limited outside space, he acknowledges the school's commitment to exercise and sport provision. "They make sure that the children have access to off-site facilities such as the local leisure centre and the English Institute of Sport, and they make the most of the school yard to provide an adventure trail and play equipment. I'm happy to see that the children's physical wellbeing is prioritised as well as everything else."

Positive results

In the same way as some other parents, Mark and Helen had reservations about the introduction of mixed-year classes, but are now convinced that it has had an unexpectedly positive effect. "It's great for the little ones, who look up to and learn from the older ones, and those in Year 2 like to take the Year 1 children under their wings. The system means that their friendship pool is enhanced and they often play together outside school, too."

Believe in instinct

As well as attending Dronfield herself for a short while as a child, Helen has also had a career working in schools, so she has a personal insight into what she wanted for her own children. "It comes down to gut instinct, really," she says. "We both knew straightaway that Dronfield was the right place for our children's early education, and we were right."

ADMISSIONS AND GETTING INVOLVED

Admissions arrangements

Reception intake

Derbyshire County Council coordinates Reception stage admissions for all Derbyshire primary schools.

Transfer during the academic year

If you have a child who you would like to transfer to our school from another school, please make an appointment to have a look around and we will be delighted to give you a tour and advise you about our 'in year' application process.

Application process

- The closing date for September applications is in mid-January of that year.
- Applications can be online or via Derbyshire Council's paper application form which can be found at <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>
- You will be notified of your child's placement by the following April.

Contact details for the Derbyshire County Council School Admissions Team

Address:

Derbyshire County Council
County Hall
Matlock
DE4 3AG

Tel: 01629 533190

Email: admissions@derbyshire.gov.uk.

Web: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx>

Getting involved

Voluntary helpers

We always welcome volunteers from our school and wider community to help with activities such as, supporting pupils and the school in wider activities e.g., cooking, library time, crafts, gardening, school visits, or supporting children in class. If this is something that you would be interested in, please contact the school office for a volunteer application pack (*all volunteers working within the school will be subject to a full DBS Clearance check*).

Governorship

The Governors and associate members of Dronfield Infant School recognise that we hold an important public office and as such strive to always operate with transparency and with the well-being of all the children, staff and parents, and the reputation of the school as our core purpose. Parents play a vital role in this key leadership area, so, if you think that you would like to be considered as a parent governor at our school, please contact the school office who will advise you of any vacancies that we may have for parent governors on our governing body team.



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