



DRONFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Reaching Potential

WELCOME TO DRONFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Foreword: Ian Roberts, Headteacher says...

On behalf of the children, staff and governors I wish you a very warm welcome.

Educating children for 150 years

We are very proud of our school, which is the oldest, and largest Junior School in Dronfield. From January 2025, we are celebrating our school being 150 years old.

Making learning fun

Each child is valued as an individual, with the organisation and curriculum designed to provide your child with the best of opportunities for learning - achieving their full potential and making learning fun. We want your child to be happy!

Children who thrive!

We provide our pupils with an education that equips them with the knowledge, skills, cultural capital and confidence they will need to thrive in their next stage of schooling and beyond.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide high quality education in a safe and respectful environment that builds life skills and a foundation for life-long learning.

Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all

our children also have the opportunity to also enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular trips and residential visits. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

Dedicated staff

We are also very proud of our exceptionally experienced and dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to 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.

Get in touch

I look forward to meeting you and showing you around our wonderful school. Please call us on **01246 41 31 45** to arrange a visit.

Working with Dronfield Infant School

We work very closely with Dronfield Infant School. We occupy the same location, with parents often having children in both infant and junior schools.



Hok Lit and Ka Fang live in Dronfield with their daughter, Liz, who is eight.

Liz has received a warm welcome from both the staff and the pupils at Dronfield Junior School

Enjoying Maths

Hok Lit and Ka Fang are delighted with the way Liz is flourishing in the supportive, inspiring environment of Dronfield Junior School. Her mum, Hok, says: "Liz is very enthusiastic about learning at school and particularly enjoys Maths and History. She practises her times tables at home using Times Tables Rock Stars, and she's very motivated to improve her score each week."

Kind staff

Liz joined Year 3 at Dronfield Juniors having attended a different primary school previously after her family moved to the area from Rotherham. Hok says: "Liz received a lot of support, even before she started. She had a transition day the term before to meet her new teacher and classmates, which we really appreciated. As parents, we were naturally concerned about how she would adapt to the new environment, especially with the challenges of starting Key Stage 2 in a much larger school. However, the support she received from day one has been incredible."

Excited to learn

Hok says the transition day helped ease some of her initial fears and gave her a sense of familiarity before the

term began. "The staff and her class teacher were wonderfully attentive, making sure she felt included and reassured as one of the new joiners. Despite her worries, she quickly began making friends and exploring the school with confidence, thanks to the welcoming atmosphere and the care shown by everyone. We're so pleased with how smoothly she settled in and how excited she is to learn and grow in her new school."

Learning two languages

Liz is encouraged to read daily both at home and at school and she now reads something every day and her confidence with reading is growing, Hok says. "We speak Cantonese at home, so she's also developing her Cantonese vocabulary to speak with relatives, while happily reading English as well."

Fun activities

One of Liz's favourite activities at school is doing Forest School and learning outdoors. She is also being given the chance to enjoy some great extracurricular experiences at the school, Hok says. "She loves Dancing Club, Knitting Club, Card Games Club, and French Club after school. We think these clubs help her to build new friendships and they give her the chance to meet different children from

the other years who share the same interests."

Making new friends

Liz has quickly made new friends after joining Dronfield Junior School. "Liz has become close to some very kind boys and girls at the school and very soon after she started, she was receiving invitations to birthday parties from her classmates, which were very warmly received," Hok says.

Approachable teachers

"We are very happy with Dronfield Junior School and feel fortunate to have such a good school nearby. The staff have been consistently helpful and supportive. Whenever I have questions, Liz's teacher responds quickly, whether I speak to her in person or contact her through Class Dojo, which we really appreciate. Liz comes home from school happy every day, full of stories and enthusiasm, and it's clear she feels a real sense of belonging."

Children say

Liz says: "I like this school because it is full of joy, kindness, and happiness. This is a marvellous school."

SCHOOL DAY: SETTLING IN

School hours

- Morning School
9.00am – 12 noon
- Afternoon School
1.05pm – 3.30pm

After School Clubs

We have a Breakfast Club and After School Club with a range of activities including, separate Girl's and Boy's Football, Forest School, Chess Club, Dance Club and Running and Fitness Club...and many more.

Uniform

Our smart uniform in the school colours of burgundy gives the children a sense of community and belonging. School uniform items with the school logo can be ordered online at <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/DronfieldJuniorSchoolS181RY> (our unique parent ordering page), from Crystal Peaks Market or from Dronfield Ski and Sport, 53-55 Sheffield Road, Dronfield, S18 2GF.

Non-logoed school uniform can be purchased from supermarkets or high street stores.

Food in school

Derbyshire County Council provide our school meals. Every menu is made up of tasty dishes packed full of nutrients, with each meal offering at least 3 of their 5 a day.

Free school meals

We offer free school meals to those families who need additional financial support. If you think that you may be eligible for this scheme, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office where we will be happy to assist you with the very simple application process. Alternatively, you can check your eligibility and apply online at <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

If you'd like any further support, please contact the free school meals team, email checking@derbyshire.gov.uk or telephone: 01629 536481

Packed lunches

Children are also welcome to bring their own lunch and break time snacks from home. We encourage healthy eating at school and ask that children are provided with a balanced packed lunch, with no fizzy drinks or sweets.

Snacks

We encourage children to bring a snack, which may be in the form of pure fruit or vegetables.

Drinks

We ask that your child only brings water to school, except for children who have registered for our School Milk Scheme. Parents may apply through the school office. We have water fountains in school for your child to replenish their drinks bottle throughout the day.



Samantha has Henry in Year 5 and Arthur in Year 3.

Samantha and her family moved from Scotland and Dronfield School came highly recommended by lots of different people

Moving to a new school

"We moved from a small village in Scotland two years ago. We picked Dronfield as it was recommended to us by at least three other people. We heard great things from various different places so we felt word had got around that it's such a good school. When we looked around we just felt it was the best for our children's needs," said Samantha.

Reassured by the level of support

"We were looking for a school that could support the neurodivergent needs of our children. We'd felt up until the move that the children were missing out on learning, when we looked around Dronfield we noticed so much one-to-one support in place and that was reassuring," said Samantha.

Encouragement and confidence building

"When we were visiting I remember one little boy was really struggling in his lesson and he was lovely. He came and talked to me and said that he was having some time out from his lesson and he seemed happy

and confident after a while to return to his lesson. It just made me feel that even when the children get frustrated or are struggling, Dronfield is an environment where they will be supported rather than made to feel bad. Seeing that little boy adapt really helped in my decision making," said Samantha.

Proactive approach

"School tries to work out what the children need. They don't wait for a child to start struggling or wait for their grades to slip. They don't label the children as "naughty". They look at each child as an individual and tailor their learning accordingly," said Samantha.

Extracurricular activities

"The boys are involved with after school clubs which they enjoy thoroughly. Arthur loves the Chess Club and they both love STEM Club. Arthur comes home and practices his chess moves," said Samantha.

Little things that make a big difference

"You feel as if the teachers are treating the children as if they were

their own. Everyone is supportive and they take all their needs into consideration. My boys have thrived since joining the school, they love going to school. One of the things Henry loves doing is getting to write on the board in the classroom and it's just little things like that, that feel special and make the children feel cared for. The teachers have a real understanding of the boys and the boys have developed lovely relationships with their teachers. Henry is going on the residential trip and he's looking forward to that. He's looking forward to two nights away with his friends," said Samantha.

Certificates and rewards

"The boys love the Lexia Certificates. They do their homework every week as they know they'll get a certificate and it's great to see how happy it makes them when they receive their reward. I'd recommend any parent to visit Dronfield. It's such a lovely place to be," said Samantha.

Children say

Henry says: "I like science."

Arthur says: "I like maths."

CURRICULUM: INSPIRING MINDS AND TEACHING PUPILS KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Curriculum purpose

Our carefully planned and deliberately designed curriculum is rigorous and robust, placing knowledge at its core. Through acquiring this knowledge base, pupils are able to build key skills allowing links to be made both across and within subjects.

Music

We believe that every child can be a musician and we pride ourselves on holding weekly singing assemblies for the whole school where children learn about genres of music and learn songs linked to different themes.

In Year 4 every child gets to learn a musical instrument for free and if they want, they can continue this to the end of Year 6. We have peripatetic music teachers for violin, piano, flute, clarinet, guitar and singing. We have a school orchestra and we encourage all children who learn an instrument to take part in this exciting opportunity. There are a number of staff members who form part of our school orchestra too, making it a wonderful whole school experience.

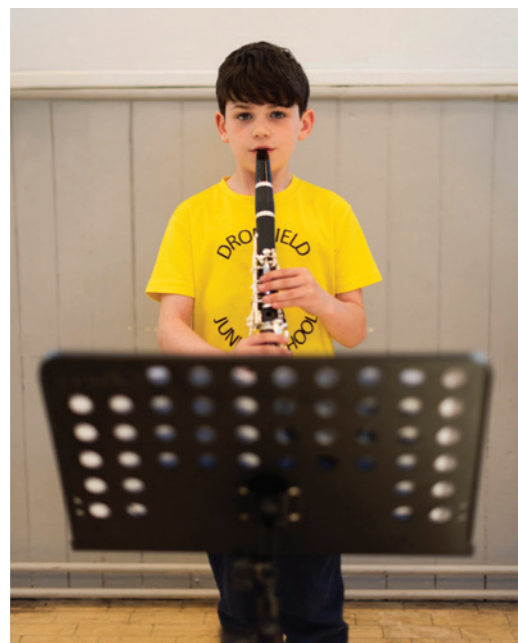
Each half term, we hold performance assemblies, that children can sign up for to showcase their musical talents and enthusiasm. This is a much anticipated event on the school calendar!

Choir

The school choir perform on average a concert per term in the community, often performing at large venues alongside professional musicians and opera singers, which helps build cultural capital. Each year, one year group produces a carol service at the local church. Our choir takes part in Young Voices, the largest children's choir in the world! This takes place in Sheffield at the arena, with thousands of other school children.

Sport

Our fundamental aim is to install a lifelong love of sport, exercise and outdoor activities by ensuring the children's early experiences of PE are challenging, stimulating and positive.



Our PE curriculum offer is rich and varied, providing children with transferable physical skills for a wide range of sports. Our school works with the local SHAPE sports learning partnership, which provides high quality teaching support for our staff as well as holding a diverse range of sporting opportunities, competitions and events for all children. We have enjoyed many successes at local and regional levels in girls' football, boys' football, cross country and athletics. These opportunities often inspire our children to participate in sporting clubs outside of school too.

A highlight of our school calendar is our annual Sports Day. We hold this day-long event at the English Institute of Sport (EIS) in Sheffield, which is an internationally recognised sporting facility. It is through opportunities such as this that we aim to create long lasting memories and experiences for our children.



Enrichment: visitors, clubs and trips

Children at Dronfield Junior School enjoy a wide range of enrichment activities, including art, drama, music and dance. The curriculum is also widened through educational visits, visitors in school and themed weeks.

To further support our curriculum, we invite visitors and companies into school such as the History Van, Mini First Aid and Faith speakers in order to give our children the skills and experiences necessary to equip them as citizens in our society.

Residential trips

We are the only school in the area to offer a residential trip outside of the UK. In Year 6, we take our Year 6 pupils to the Opal Coast in France and also to Llandudno in Wales. In Year 5, children take part in outdoor pursuits at the Mount Cook Centre in Wirksworth. Year 3 and 4 pupils enjoy at least one school trip per year that links with their learning in History or Geography. Trips include the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Cresswell Craggs in Derbyshire.



Abeer's daughter, Valentina, moved to Dronfield Junior School in Year 5 and it's been the best move they've ever made



Abeer has Valentina in Year 5. Valentina's older sister Sofi, is in Year 7 at high school

Moving back after time away

"Both of our girls had been at Totley Primary School until we moved away for 12 months due to work. When we came back the girls started at another primary school, Sofi in Year 6 and Valentina in Year 4, but Valentina struggled to settle in. The class sizes were small, which sometimes is great, but it meant there were a lot of established friendship groups and Valentia found it difficult to make new friends. With Sophia heading to high school we thought it would be a good opportunity for Valentina to try somewhere new. She came to Dronfield Junior School for a couple of days to see how she felt and has never looked back," said Abeer.

Moving to Dronfield and enjoying school

"Valentina enjoys learning and she finds her teaches and lessons stimulating. She has settled in well and thanks to some of the friends she already had through Brownies the move to Dronfield Junior School has been smooth and she's much more engaged with school now," said Abeer.

Encouraging responsibility and independence

"Valentina and her friends are part of the School Play Leader Scheme and they help to set up games and activities for the younger children in

the playground at break and lunch times. For example, if they want to set up some tennis games, they'll be given the equipment and get an early pass for the lunch queue so that they can get everything ready for the other children. They really enjoy and respond positively with being given these tasks, they like to contribute and be part of their school community," said Abeer.

Little steps to big achievements

"Valentina likes English and she is quite competitive with herself, she wants to do well. My husband is a primary school teacher so she is supported at home with her studies and she finds Dronfield's way of teaching interesting and fun. When she started at Dronfield her handwriting was very small and she desperately wanted her "pen licence". Her teacher set her targets and worked with her to improve little by little. There was no stress or pressure, just encouragement and little targets that helped her feel she was improving," said Abeer.

Feeling settled and looking forward to school trips

"Valentina is adamant that we stay here for now so that she can stay at Dronfield and complete her Year 6 there. That was quite a surprise to me, but I'm happy she feels so settled. She's really looking forward to the school residential trip, she's already making a list of what to pack

and planning her snacks with her friends. They go away for two days and she can't wait, it'll be her first trip without any family there so she feels very independent," said Abeer.

Enjoying school clubs

"Valentina enjoyed going to the cooking club and she loves the chess club at school, that has proven very popular with the children. She's been watching the chess masters on the BBC. At first she was the only girl but that hasn't put her off, she picked up the rules quickly and is enjoying playing," said Abeer.

Inclusive, welcoming and friendly

"Dronfield is a great school for diversity. There are lots of different families from different faiths, cultures and backgrounds going to school which is maybe why Valentina has settled so well. She has swapped gifts with her friends for Easter and done the same for Eid and Ramadan. Valentina likes her teachers and knows she can talk to them, everyone is welcoming and friendly," said Abeer.

Children say

Liz says: "I like this school because it is full of joy, kindness, and happiness. This is a marvellous school."

GETTING INVOLVED AND OUR CORE VALUES

Voluntary helpers

We value the contribution of parents and family, and we actively encourage your help during the school day. Parents and family help with a variety of activities which include reading with our children, helping children to choose a library book, sewing, cooking, and acting as extra pair of hands in class. We accept all help gratefully. We hold Step into NHS days in school and invite parents who work in any role within the NHS to come into school to talk about their job and what is involved. The children love hearing about the skills required for different roles and we believe that it is never too soon for children to hear about different career opportunities.

Every class in school gets the chance to share their work with parents, grandparents and carers through a coffee afternoon. This is an informal opportunity for children to share the work that they are so very proud of with their loved ones. The school council representatives are on hand and serve hot drinks and biscuits.

Governors

The primary purpose of our school's Governing Body is to ensure the quality of the education provision. When carrying out their responsibilities, our governing body acts in the interests of the children and young people in the school and in the wider community.

Our Core Values

Our core values of:

**Respect and Resilience,
Excellence, Autonomy,
Curiosity and Honesty (REACH)**

we feel are important aspects of a child's education. We believe these values guide our whole school community from day to day in our learning, thinking and decision making. The impact of these values can be seen in the daily life of our school.



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Reaching Potential

Dronfield Junior School

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Web: www.dronfield-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk



Working together to help pupils believe, achieve and reach their potential.

Dronfield Infant and Junior are located on one site.



Dronfield Junior School
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