



# 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 the 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.



## Billy and Clara are both thriving in the supportive surroundings of Dronfield Infant School

Paul and Lisa live in Dronfield with their children, Joe, aged 17, Billy, aged seven, and Clara, aged five.

### Helpful staff

Paul and Lisa are very happy with the support their children have received from the understanding staff at Dronfield Infant School. Lisa says: "Billy has autism and he is being given extra help at school. His class teacher in Year 2 has gone above and beyond for him and spent a lot of time working out how to motivate him. Clara wears hearing aids and, although she takes it all in her stride, the staff have been very accommodating and change her batteries for her."

### Great school

Paul and Lisa chose Dronfield Infant School for Billy and Clara because they had attended the school themselves and their older son, Joe, had been very happy there and had a good start to his education. "It is a lovely school and it is walkable from where we live," Lisa says.

### Quick response

When Billy started in Reception, he had not been diagnosed with autism but the family had already seen some signs, Lisa says. "The school were very supportive before he received his official diagnosis and worked out what he needed and gave him extra help and the SENCO was very helpful in assisting us to finally get a diagnosis."

### Good progress

Billy has communication difficulties and now has extra support with a TA working with him, Lisa says. "The learning has been adapted for him and they have organised for him to be able to work as part of small groups and to have one-to-one support on school trips. He is making progress and is where he should be with reading. Although he is still behind with his writing, it has improved a lot. He is making small steps forward all the time."

### Supportive SENCO

"Billy has been helped by having understanding staff working with him and being given additional support, such as a member of staff doing positive

play with him. Billy is happy and wants to go to school each day and I can be confident he is safe and being taken care of because people know and understand him. The SENCO has helped us and written letters on our behalf and is helping us apply for an EHCP for Billy," Lisa says.

### Enjoying school

Clara has just finished in Reception and is going into Year One next year. "She settled in well after she started and made friends and has loved every minute of it. The classroom is lovely and they spend a lot of time outside. Clara is making good educational progress and is where she should be in everything. She likes reading, her writing is good and she does well in Maths," Lisa says.

### Making friends

"Clara loves sport and has played cricket, tennis, and football after school. She has never had any problems. I make sure the school always have batteries for her hearing aids so they can change them for her if necessary. She loves her teacher and has made plenty of friends," Lisa says.

### Keeping in touch

"We find the school very welcoming to parents. You can go in for Stay and Play and see what is happening in the classroom and look at your child's work. The school will invite you in for things such as to learn about the new Maths curriculum and to talk about what the children are going to be doing. Communication with parents is very good. They put information about new topics on line and send us regular newsletter and emails."

### Children say

**Billy says:** "I like playing with the trains and dinosaurs."

**Clara says:** "I like playing with my friends and doing PE."



# 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.



## Iris is being encouraged to work creatively in the vibrant environment of Dronfield Infant School

Gemma and Gareth live in Dronfield with their daughters, Ava, aged ten, and Iris, aged six.

### Fresh displays

Gemma and Gareth are delighted with the way Iris is being inspired to produce good creative work in the colourful surroundings of Dronfield Infant School. Gemma says: "I love the way they showcase the children's work throughout the school. The walls are always packed with examples of what the children have been studying and it is lovely to be able to go in and see it. The staff present the work well and the school always looks smart and the displays fresh."

### Interesting topics

Gemma thinks displaying the work so effectively helps to stimulate the children and encourage their creativity. "A lot of the work is themed around the topics the children have been studying, which is also interesting for the parents to be able to see," she says.

### Good reports

Gemma and Gareth chose Dronfield Infant School for Ava because they had heard good reports of the school and they liked the building and the layout after looking round. "Ava enjoyed her time there and did well at the school and is now happy at her junior school where she is in the last year," Gemma says.

### Smooth transition

Iris started in Reception at the age of four and settled in well. "She had been to a nursery where she had been happy and made some friends, but it had closed abruptly. She then started at another nursery, where she settled eventually, and luckily it fed into Dronfield Infants," Gemma says. "After Iris started in Reception, the teachers were lovely and nurturing and were everything you would want for your child when they are starting school. We had no doubts that it was the right environment for her. We were pleased it was a clean, smart school and she was learning in an inspiring setting. She thrived in Reception, where she enjoyed learning through play."

### Making friends

Gemma says Iris liked her teacher and made some lovely friends, but then along came Covid. "After the lockdown, Iris carried on going into school because I was a key worker, but many of my friends have told me the staff handled the situation very well and did their best for the children who had to stay at home and learn remotely."

### Useful feedback

"Iris enjoys Maths and English as well as doing creative work. We are kept up to date with how she is progressing at the regular parents' evenings and I find it is very useful when the teachers tell you how you can help your child at home. Iris enjoys reading and likes bringing a book from school to read at home," Gemma says.

### Outstanding care

"She likes to be active and enjoys playing with her friends at playtime. She loves the activities after school, such as fab lab, where they make different things every week. She has also enjoyed playing football after school. For working parents, the school provide outstanding wraparound care, which is wonderful for those who need it. Iris has enjoyed going on the school trips and I admire the way the staff manage to teach the children things while they are having a good time, without them even realising they are learning," Gemma says.

### Understanding staff

"The TAs are all very kind and nurturing, the teachers, Headteacher and her Deputy are very supportive and all the office staff are lovely. They are always very approachable and understanding if you are running late, or have any problems. I would recommend Dronfield Infant School to other families because I think it provides a lovely, stimulating environment for children to learn in."

### Children say

**Iris says:** "I like doing creative writing and making up stories to write."



# 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:

- Science Club (Fab Lab)
- Football
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Tennis



## Baanie and her siblings have had a happy time in the caring atmosphere of Dronfield Infant School

Sonia and Rej live in Dronfield with their children, Jai, aged 17, Rae aged 15, Kartar aged 13, Daya, aged 10, Baanie, aged seven, and Dara, aged four.

### Kind staff

Sonia and Rej are very grateful for all the kindness their children have received from staff at Dronfield Infant School. Sonia says: "My three eldest daughters have done very well academically and had a good start to their education at Dronfield Infant School. Kartar was given very good support and had a happy time, and the staff have been amazingly kind to Baanie."

### Good Headteacher

After the family moved to the area from Wolverhampton, many people recommended Dronfield Infant School so they bought a house nearby. Sonia says: "Jai started in Year 2 and just had a short time there, but really enjoyed it. Rae started in Reception and had a good time there too. Kartar was in Reception when the new Headteacher, Mrs King, started. She has been very good for the school and is always at the gates in the mornings to greet the children as they arrive and say hello to the parents. She is very approachable and you can have a word with her, or any of the other teachers, if you need to."

### Great support

Daya is now in Year 5 at the junior school next door, having had a brilliant time at Dronfield Infant School, Sonia says. "When Baanie was still young, we realised she wasn't as well coordinated as the other children, but were reassured that she was all right by a doctor. As she got older, we noticed she would bump into things and eventually she was diagnosed with dyspraxia. The school said straight away they would support her and whatever she needed they would provide."

### Making progress

"They have been brilliant and given her everything she has needed," Sonia says. "They have provided 1-1 teaching when it has been needed, they have done activities, such as play gym, with her, and if she's exhausted, they let her have quiet time.

Baanie has now been diagnosed with ADD, but she is still making good progress, thanks to the school."

### Excellent communication

"It is wonderful to know they understand Baanie and that she is in a safe place at school. I can let them know if she is exhausted after doing something, such as attending the school disco, and they will understand. Through Tapestry, I can see on line what she is doing at school and I can communicate with the staff about it," Sonia says.

### Working as a team

"We have a good partnership with the staff and they are fully supportive and aware of what Baanie needs. Everyone from the Headteacher, the teachers and the reception staff, are approachable and pleasant. Parents' evenings and school reports are helpful and highlight what we can do at home to help her. If we ever have an issue, we know it will remain confidential," Sonia says.

### Gentle start

"Baanie has been very happy and has some good friends. She has been well prepared for going into the juniors. She has had a few visits and I know the school will pass on information about her and hopefully she will have a good transition. Our youngest son, Dara, is looking forward to starting at Dronfield Infant School in September. He has had three visits already. I am glad he is having a staggered start and will do just a couple of hours in the morning and a couple of hours in the afternoon for the first two weeks. We have been to meet his new teacher and they opened all the facilities to show us what he would be doing, which was very good."

### Children say

**Baanie says:** "I have loved all my teachers and loved my time at Dronfield Infant School."

# 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](mailto: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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