

Choose
DOWNSWAY

“A very caring and supporting school community where pupils and staff flourish.”

OFSTED rated GOOD
April 2023



Together Everyone Achieves More

**The caring ethos for your
child to flourish**

**The right environment
for your child to learn
and to enjoy school**

**The professional &
dedicated staff to meet
the needs of your child**

Welcome to Downsway

Our collaborative ethos of care, passion and commitment alongside a focus on developing teaching and learning opportunities are at the heart of Downsway's sustained success.

On behalf of the staff, pupils and governors, I am very proud to introduce to you Downsway Primary School.

I hope that what you see and read will give you an insight into what makes Downsway a happy and successful school. We pride ourselves in providing a safe, caring, nurturing and exciting environment in which every individual child can thrive. We place high emphasis on developing strong relationships with all our pupils, parents and carers to provide the best possible experience that a primary school can offer.

At Downsway, our pupils are supported in developing skills and attitudes which help them to develop in confidence and independence through our broad and balanced curriculum. When pupils leave us at the end of Year 6, we want them to have a love of learning which will stay with them throughout their life.

Our website and this leaflet are simply an introduction to our school. Please come and walk through our vibrant school, visit our classes, talk to our staff and pupils, and you will understand the unique, well rounded experience that Downsway Primary School has to offer.

Mrs K. Ayres
Headteacher

Be part of a truly amazing School



- We are an Ofsted rated Good school.
- We believe our Foundation Stage provides the best start for your child and which has been endorsed by the Local Authority Kitemark for outstanding provision.
- We offer a broad and balanced educational experience enabling your child to learn and thrive.
- We have earned a reputation as a nurturing, caring and inclusive school and we enjoy strong relationships with our families.
- We place a strong emphasis on personal development, encouraging your child to acquire good character traits for life.
- We have a strong track record in academic outcomes.
- We provide a wide selection of extra-curricular activities as we believe education extends beyond the classroom!
- We are proud of our dedicated and experienced staff who work tirelessly to meet the needs of every child.
- We have excellent facilities: a well-resourced library, a teaching kitchen, extensive playing fields, a nature garden and superb outdoor play facilities.
- We are delighted with the positive endorsement received from our parents; 98% of our parents would recommend Downsway to other parents/carers.

Our vision & our core values

Children have the confidence to aim high and to be curious about their world. They work successfully with others and have a tolerant and responsible attitude towards them.

Tolerance

Respecting, accepting & embracing others

Aspiration

Dreaming big, aiming high, working hard to achieve goals

Curiosity

Showing enthusiasm, asking questions, imagining & exploring

Self-Belief

Believing in & valuing yourself

Responsibility

Learning to make good choices & understanding the importance of honesty

Co-operation

Listening, supporting & sharing

Our many strengths, recognised by Ofsted

We always receive lots of positive feedback, whether it is from parents/carers, visitors to the school or those in our community. We pride ourselves in always being the very best that we can be and for always giving 100% in everything that we do.

"You ensure that the school's mission statement, 'We aspire to encourage all our children to be confident, secure, caring individuals who achieve success and develop a love of learning' underpins all aspects of the school's work."

"The school is very calm and well ordered. Classrooms are bright and attractive, with exciting displays of pupils' work as well as plenty of helpful information to support their learning."

"There are very positive relationships between staff and pupils and this helps pupils to develop confidence and to enjoy learning."

"Pupils behave exceptionally well in classrooms, in the playground and when moving around the school. Pupils love their school and they say there is little they would like to change. They say that adults are kind and that teachers make learning fun."

"Pupils enjoy learning and they say that teachers expect them to work hard." They are polite, friendly and kind to each other. They say that adults treat them equally and fairly and there is no discrimination."

"There is a wide range of extra-curricular activities that increase pupils' enjoyment of school. These include physical activities, music and choir, as well as a magic club during lunchtime."

"The outdoor area has been very well planned so that pupils can learn outside as well as in classrooms."



Community & parents praise for Downsway

'Thank you for everything you have done for my child. She has come up in leaps & bounds in her first year at school.'



'Many thanks for a great series of Bikeability courses, so nice to get such a warm welcome and great hospitality from all the staff and students, it has been a real pleasure.'

'My child seems to have her confidence back with her writing! She started to just pick up her books and pens, etc. and is writing all sorts and copying, so I just wanted to thank you very much for what you've been doing as it's helped her self-confidence massively. So thank you to you and your fabulous Foundation Stage team!'



'Such a lovely sports day! Left with a couple of tears as it was our last sports day. The children did so well and just goes to show what a lovely school Downsway is! (the determination all the children have to succeed no matter what!) So happy to be part of today it was lovely. Thank you.'

'I think Miss Smith and Mrs Hobbs make such a great team and give a really welcoming feel to the reception. Super efficient and all round fabulous.'



'Thank you for arranging for our visit today. We were very impressed by the facilities, teachers and pupils of Downsway School.'

'Just wanted to say how great all of the extra sporting activities are. My child had an amazing time at tag rugby yesterday & kept the kit on all day/night and said she would love to do it again. My child loves netball and all the tournaments and they both can't wait to take part in the different cross country activities. Also the extra activities in P.E are brilliant. Thanks so much for all you do. We all love Downsway.'

'We would like to thank you for all your kind attention and support regarding our child. Many thanks for being so nice to my son. There are no words...'



'Just a quick note of thanks to you and everyone at school – especially the kids and class teachers for allowing us to come in and deliver our sporting sessions. All the coaches have said how much they like visiting the school and how good the kids are.'

The curriculum

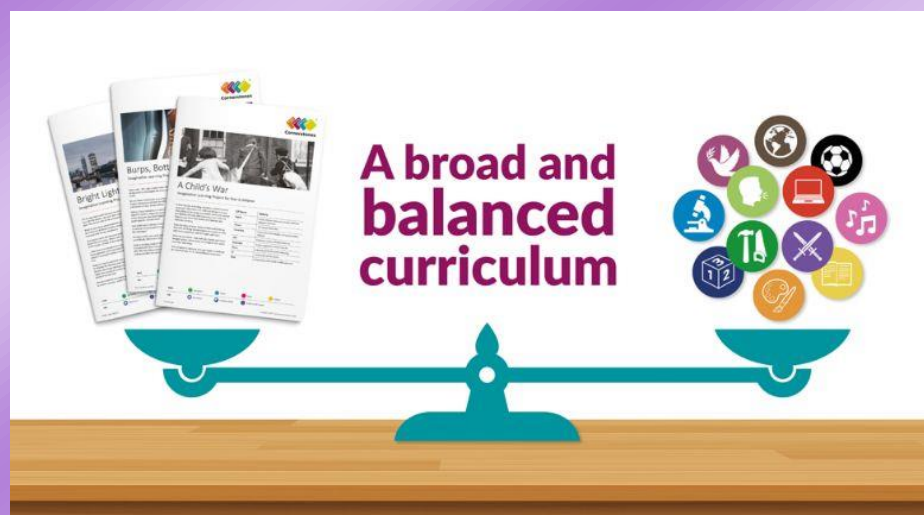
All children have a right to a broad balanced and relevant education which provides continuity and progression and takes individual differences into account.

Our school's 'curriculum' is all the planned activities that we organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum 2014, but also the various extra-curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the children's experience. It also includes the personal development curriculum – what the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave.

We want children to grow into positive, responsible people, who can work and cooperate with others, while at the same time developing their knowledge and skills, in order to achieve their true potential.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced, providing a wide range of knowledge, skills and experiences, giving each skill based theme sufficient time to contribute to the children's learning. Our curriculum takes into account the key skills required in each subject by the National Curriculum as well as children's interests.

The main emphasis is to make the curriculum relevant to the child's learning by making explicit cross-curricular links.



At Downsway, we promise that each child, in addition to statutory curriculum opportunities, will be given additional opportunities to:

- take part in a residential visit
- play an instrument
- represent the school – academic or non-academic event
- take part in a fund raising activity
- visit a place of interest each academic year
- take part in Bikeability
- take part in a competitive sports day
- take part in inter-house competitions
- participate in at least five different sports
- take part in national days/events
- learn the skills linked to our core values
- contribute to whole school development
- learn with others from across the school
- take part in a range of extra-curricular clubs
- take part in a production
- take part in specialist workshops
- learn about recycling
- learn basic road safety
- put themselves forward to be considered as a house captain or school council member



The school day

8.45 am Classroom doors open

8.55 am Registration (*Official start to the school day*)

10.30 am Break Time (*15 minutes*)

12.00 pm Lunch (*1 hour*)

1.00 pm Registration

3.05 pm End of School Day - Foundation Stage

3.15 pm End of School Day - Years 1 to 6



Although we do not have wrap-around care on site, we have a number of Ofsted registered childminders who can offer this provision for the pupils at Downsway Primary School. Should you require these details, please contact the school office.

Introduction arrangements for children joining Foundation Stage



In order to provide a smooth transition for your child, our transition opportunities consist of the following:

Transition Visits

We have two transition opportunities where your child can visit Downsway in a small group. During these visits your child will be paired with a current foundation child and spend the afternoon getting to know the environment and adults in the classroom, as well as becoming familiar with their new school surroundings.

Changeover Morning

Changeover morning is the first time all the Foundation Stage pupils come together as a whole class. Your child will have a morning of activities and will get to know other children and adults further.

New Parents/Carers Picnic

After change over morning, parents/carers are invited to bring a picnic lunch to share with your child, in the school grounds, together with the staff from the Foundation Stage.

New Parents Information Evening

Parents/carers are invited in to school to meet with your child's class teacher, Miss Danielle Rackley, who will talk about the expectations of starting school and our Foundation stage routines etc.

Home Visits

At the beginning of the September term, we hold home visits. These will happen shortly before your child will be starting at school, after the summer holidays. Home visits are a chance for Miss Rackley to visit your home to enable your child and yourselves to ask any questions.

Staggered September Start

To ensure that we can address your child's individual needs and to ensure that we get to know your child fully during their first week at school, we have a staggered start over the first couple of weeks (typically over eight school days). Your child will be allocated a group and a start date based on their date of birth. Your child will be full time from their start date.

Why should you choose Downsway?

Downsway Primary School is a fantastic school. We are a flourishing learning community with a caring ethos and a strong team, committed to enhancing the life chances of our pupils.

Our 6 core values underpin all that we do at Downsway.

We offer:

- a team of dedicated and talented staff
- a kind and caring environment
- excellent facilities
- supportive parents/carers community
- one class per year group



'Challenging minds. Changing futures'

Visit our wonderful school

If you are interested in finding out more, please come and see us in action.

Mrs Ayres, the Headteacher, carries out personalised tours, one to one with all prospective parents/carers. Typically tours take place weekly on Wednesday & Friday mornings.

Please contact the school office to arrange a visit either by telephoning or emailing.





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