



Prospectus

Downs Infant
School



Downs Infant School
Ditchling Road
Brighton
BN1 6JA
01273 099854
admin@downsinf.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Welcome to Downs Infant School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for considering Downs Infant School for your child. I am delighted to introduce you to our warm, welcoming and inclusive community where every child truly matters.

At Downs Infant School, everyone belongs, everyone is valued, and everyone can flourish. These aren't just words on a page – they're at the heart of everything we do. We celebrate difference and create a nurturing environment where children develop respect for themselves, each other and our planet.

Our approach to learning is built around what we know works best for young children: child-centred, play-based education combined with rich, creative learning experiences. We believe that when children are engaged, curious and happy, they develop a genuine love of learning that will stay with them throughout their lives.

We're passionate about helping every child develop an 'I can do it' attitude. Through carefully planned opportunities to discover, explore and embrace challenge, we support each child to achieve their very best. Our goal is to give your child the confidence, skills and resilience they need to flourish – not just at school, but in the life they want to lead.

I invite you to visit us and experience our school community for yourself. You'll see our values in action and meet the dedicated team who will support your child's journey with us.

I look forward to welcoming you and your family to Downs Infant School.

Warm regards,



Lisa Walker

Headteacher, Downs Infant
School



Vision, Values and Curriculum

Downs Infant School is a warm, welcoming, and inclusive community in which we all feel proud to belong. A place where we value and respect ourselves, each other, and our planet, and we embrace difference. A place where, through rich and exciting learning experiences, we all aspire to achieve our very best in all that we do in order to flourish and live the lives we want to lead.

Our curriculum is designed to spark imagination and curiosity. Through real-life experiences, creative activities and outdoor learning, children make meaningful connections and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.



Our Vision

To provide excellence in education through our child-centered, play-based approach to learning. Daring to be different, we nurture a culture in which children want to learn and develop an 'I can do it' attitude that allows them to value themselves and be the best that they can be.

Our Values, Our A, B, C's

Our values sit at the heart of everything we do. Through Aspiration, Belonging, Creativity, Diversity, Empathy and Flexibility, we help children grow not just academically, but as kind, thoughtful individuals ready for the world around them. We take a creative and innovative approach, valuing play as a key part of learning.

Life at Downs Infants is about more than lessons. It's about friendships, confidence and feeling part of a community. With carefully balanced classes and strong links to our junior school, we ensure children feel secure and supported every step of the way.

We want children to leave with:

- A desire to learn and grow
- Enquiring minds
- Ownership of their learning
- Experience of a broad and balanced curriculum
- Understanding the purpose of learning
- Creativity



How Teaching is Organised



We carefully choose how children are introduced to learning:

- Whole class teaching (direct instruction)
- Small group work (e.g. reading skills)
- Independent learning through exploration

We use “Continuous Provision,” allowing children to revisit and embed learning independently in well-designed environments. We call this COOL time (Choose Our Own Learning). By choosing their own learning pathways, children develop confidence, resilience and a love of learning that lasts a lifetime!

Here are just some of the learning behaviours it encourages:

Self-regulation

Motivation

Communication

Perseverance

Cooperation

**Time
management**



How Learning is organised



Learning is structured around half-term themes in both EYFS and Key Stage 1.

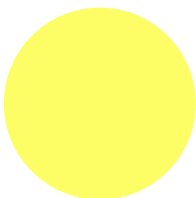
Continuous Provision includes:

- Classrooms
- Shared learning environments including The Ocean for Reception, The Burrow for Year 1 and The Nest for Year 2.
- Outdoor areas: Beach, Garden, Woodland, Treetops and The Patch

We also focus on whole-child development throughout the school day, including assemblies and a commitment to reading and music.

We believe that learning is fun and enriched by real experiences such as:

- Visits from members of the local community
- Nature exploration
- Visits to cultural venues
- Participation in arts events
- Local walks





School Organisation

School organisation

Starting school is a really important milestone for both children and their families. We have a carefully planned transition programme designed to make this experience as smooth, positive and successful as possible, helping every child feel confident and ready to begin their journey with us.

Classes are balanced by friendships, age, gender, and other factors.

We mix our children at the end of their Reception Year and then children usually stay in the same class from Year 1 to Year 2 and move on together to Downs Junior School.

In Reception, admissions are staggered to help children settle gradually.

There are 3 classes in each of our 3 year groups

**Reception: Sea
Creatures**

**Year 1: Woodland
Animals**

Year 2: Birds



We also have an Inclusion Intervention Space (IIS) which supports a small number of children with complex needs called Seahorse Class

Equipment



- PE Kit: Children should come in suitable clothing on PE days
- Book Bag: Recommended for school books
- Water Bottle: Named bottle with water only, to be taken home daily

Uniform

School uniform is optional:

- Green sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan
- White shirt or polo
- Grey trousers/skirts or green summer dress

Clothes should be practical and labelled.

No jewellery (except studs), makeup, or unsuitable footwear.

The School Day

Start: 8:45am

Finish: 3:00pm

Gates close at 8:50am

Food

- Free fruit daily
- Free milk (under 5)
- Free School Meals

No nuts or seeds allowed



Illness and Absence

- Please notify school on the first day of absence via Studybugs, telephone or email
- Children are not allowed into school for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea
- Medical appointment should be made outside of school hours where possible
- Term-time holidays are only allowed in exceptional circumstances

Lateness

- Please report to the school office if your child is late to school
- After 9:15am lateness is recorded as unauthorised absence

Clubs and Holidays

Downs Infant School offer wraparound childcare provision (named by our children as "Rainbow Club") for children who attend Downs Infant School. This operates on a term-time only basis.

We offer:

- Rainbow Breakfast Club - 7:45am - the start of the school day
- Rainbow After School Club - End of the school day - 6pm
- External clubs are available such as Ballet, Drama, Tennis and Multisports.



Communication

We use several methods of communication:

- School Website: a lot of information can be found on our school website including medical forms and requests for leave of absence during term time.
- Half-termly Newsletters
- Tapestry Learning Platform: this app updates parents on what their child has been learning that week
- We hold Parent Evenings twice a year
- We send annual reports to parents
- All classes have an open door policy
- All 3 gates are staffed am and pm and this offers a great opportunity for communication

If you would like an appointment with your child's teacher outside of a Parent's Evening, this will need to be made in advance.



Getting Involved

We encourage parents to get involved in the life of our school you could:

- Volunteer in school. This could be in the library, by being part of our gardening team or by joining our, "Reading Army"
- Join FODIS (Friends of Downs Infant School)
- Support events and activities

Governors

Our Governors:

- Set strategic direction
- Ensure safety and proper use of funds
- Visit school regularly



Health and welfare

Your child's wellbeing is our top priority. We work hard to create a safe, caring environment where children feel secure, supported and ready to thrive—both emotionally and physically.

Safeguarding

We prioritise children's safety and follow strict safeguarding policies, more information about this can be found on our website.

Illness and Accidents

- First aid is provided on school site
- Parents are always informed of injuries

Medicines

- Must be labelled and handed to the office
- Administered by trained staff



SEND and Inclusion

We support all children's individual needs and work closely with families. We have:

- SENCO working with staff, families, and external professionals
- Early identification of needs through close observation and partnership with families
- Individual education plans, where appropriate
- Regular reviews to monitor progress and adapt provision and interventions
- Inclusive teaching with appropriate differentiation in every classroom

For more information on SEND at Downs Infants, please visit the 'Inclusion' tab on our website.

Behaviour and emotional regulation

We promote positive behaviour through:

- Clear expectations
- Supportive environment
- "No blame" approach

Expectations:

- Ready
- Respectful
- Safe



Applying for a place

We understand that choosing a school is an important decision for families. Our admissions process is managed by the local authority, and we are always happy to support you with any questions along the way.

Priority order:

- Children in care
- Exceptional medical/social need
- Siblings
- Linked school transfers
- Other children

Places are allocated by distance if needed



Starting School

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This includes:

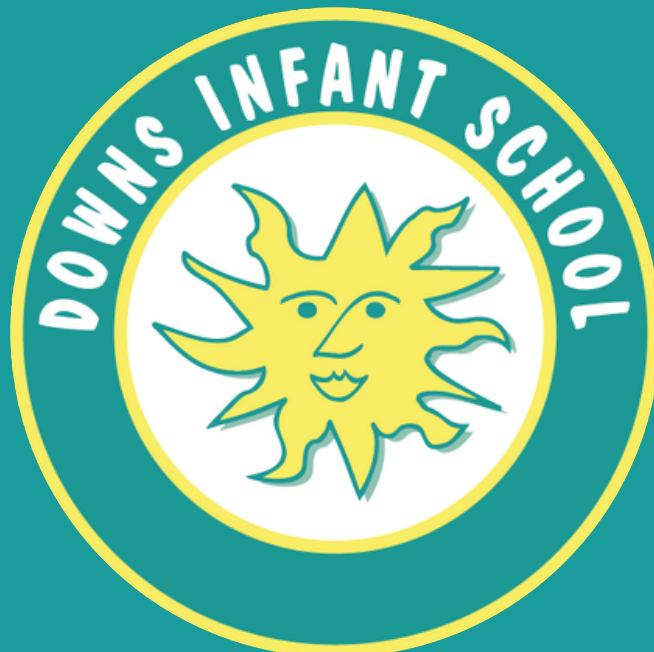
- Meetings
- Story times
- Videos from school staff sent to your children
- Visits from nurseries to school
- Support for children with additional needs
- Stay and play sessions in September, just before your child starts with us

Contact

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Here at Downs Infants, every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish. We hope this prospectus has shown what makes our school a special place to learn and grow, and we look forward to welcoming you and your child into our community.



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