



The Dales School Prospectus 2020-2021

Our Mission Statement

‘The Dales Family’
Growing Together to Inspire, Believe and Achieve,
for everyone, every day

Welcome from the Head Teacher

It's my great pleasure to welcome you to our school. I hope that you find the information you're looking for either in our prospectus or on our website. If not, please don't hesitate to contact us directly.

The Dales is a specialist primary school based on two sites: Blythdale in Blyth and Ashdale in Ashington. We provide education for children with a variety of additional needs that may not otherwise be met in a mainstream setting. We set out to make a difference to the learning, wellbeing and future life chances of children with additional needs. The school cultivates a safe and caring environment where children can thrive and have the opportunity to meet their full potential. The dedication and commitment of our staff team and Governing Body creates an outstanding professional purposefulness that sustains our high standards.

Our staff team of highly skilled practitioners work with children in small groups with a high ratio of adults to children and use bespoke interventions and strategies to ensure that learning is both accessible and meaningful. Staff work together to meet the individual needs of every pupil and we believe we can unlock each child's potential and support progress and achievement.

Further information can be found on our website, and we recommend that you take a look. This can be found at www.thedales.northumberland.sch.uk

If, after browsing our website, you believe we could be the right school for your child, please get in touch. We'd be delighted to show you more of the work we do.

Sue Fisher

If you would like to visit or learn more about The Dales School, please contact us:

Glynis Burn or Tracy Henderson - 01670 352556

or contact the Local Authority SEND Department 01670 623555

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Needs/SEND.aspx>



Our Core Values

All individuals at The Dales School demonstrate that we value:

- Honesty, by telling the truth and being true to our word
- Respect, by valuing the diversity, rights and property of others
- Teamwork, by working together appropriately to achieve our aims; demonstrating trustworthiness and consideration to others
- Responsibility, by contributing positively to our whole school community, by accepting the consequences of actions and by agreeing and following simple rules
- Resilience, by overcoming difficulties, striving to achieve our best and valuing also the achievements of others
- Kindness, by showing compassion, thoughtfulness and consideration to ourselves and others

In living these values, we enjoy our time in school and develop strong relationships, self-esteem and personal values.

Attendance

All children are expected to attend school every day. In the case of your child being unwell, can you please notify the office as soon as possible on the first day of illness. It is also your responsibility to notify your transport provider that your child will not need to be picked up on that day and / or any other days following.

If your child's attendance falls below 96%, school has a duty of care to inform the Education Welfare Officer, where they explore the reasons and offer advice to improve attendance.

If your child has a medical appointment, please inform us prior that they will not be in school.

Leave of absence during term time can be requested. This form can be requested from school, and the request will then be considered by the Head Teacher.

Charging Policy

The school does not charge for activities, other than those for which we are charged; e.g. residential trips. We may, however, ask for voluntary contributions towards activities such as swimming or trips to educational places of interest. Please note that no child will be prevented from taking part in any event if the parent /carer is unable to provide a financial contribution.

EHCP Reviews

Your child's Education, Health and Care Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis. Any professional who works with your child will be asked to attend or supply a report. You will be notified in advance of the time and date of your meeting.

Emergency Closures

If we need to close school due an emergency (weather / travel disruption or heating failure) you will receive a text message from our text service 'Parentmail'. We will also contact your travel provider. It is extremely important that we have 2 current, up to date contact numbers for your child.

Travel

Most children travel to school by minibus or taxi. This is arranged by the SEND transport department at Northumberland County Council (01670 624075). On arrival to school, the transport will park in a designated area. Children are then escorted to their class by a member of the class team. Children are escorted back to their minibus or taxi at the end of the day. Children who walk to school are asked to walk around the right side of the building and onto the playground at the back of school, where staff will be there to meet you.

Uniform and Administration Forms

Uniform can be ordered from the school office by requesting an order form.

Other forms such as holiday requests and medication forms can also be requested from school.

GDPR

As with all establishments, data protection is very important. We have an assigned trained officer, and work within the regulations and guidelines from Northumberland County Council, to ensure we are compliant.

Lunchtime

A hot meal is available daily. However, if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch then this is fine. If you wish to apply for Free School Meals, this can be done on the Northumberland County Council Website.



Family Support & Working with Other Agencies

Our Family Support Team are based at both Blythdale and Ashdale sites. They will be your first point of contact and will support you and your family through your journey with us at The Dales School.

We work very closely with other external agencies such as School Health, CYPS and therapy services and we can support you with referrals and appointments.

Medication

If your child takes medication and this needs to be administered during the school day, this will need to be in the original box you received which is prescribed by the GP with your child's name and the dosage. You must also complete an 'Administration of Medication form' which can be requested from school. We do not administer Calpol to children unless this is prescribed by the GP and it is in the box from the pharmacy with the child's name and prescribed dosage.

Mobile Telephones

Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones or handheld devices into school.

In exceptional circumstances, and when agreed beforehand, pupils who travel alone and have a long journey to school may bring their phone or tablet for use in the taxi. This must then be handed into the school office on arrival at school to be kept safe during the day. It will be returned to your child when they leave school for their journey home. Any technology brought into school is not the responsibility of school.

Jewellery and Piercings

Children should not wear jewellery in school as this may expose them and/or others to the risk of injury. Any piercings should be done at the beginning of the Summer holidays, so that earrings can be safely removed at the beginning of the school term.

COVID-19

If someone in school tests positive for COVID-19, and your child is asked to isolate, this means that they must stay in the family home for 14 days from the time of contact with the infected person. If you have another child who you need to take to school, it is advised that your child stays at home with another family member. (Further information can be found on our website).

Never send a poorly child to school.



Blythdale Site

Cowpen Road
Blyth
Northumberland
NE24 4RE
Telephone: 01670 352556

Ashdale Site

Darnley Road
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8BT
Telephone: 01670 336906

Staff

Head Teacher:
Dr. Sue Fisher

Chair of Governors:
Mr. Steve Collinson

Designated Safeguarding Leads:
Sally Collins
Kim Lamb

Glynis Burn
Sue Fisher
Liz Sanderson
Janet Simpson
Sarah Harris

Lead for Looked After Children:
Sally Collins

School Website:
www.thedales.northumberland.sch.uk

School E-mail:
admin@thedales.northumberland.sch.uk

School Day:
Monday – Thursday: 9.00am - 3.00pm
Friday: 9.00am - 2.00pm

We hope that you find our Prospectus helpful. Any information which is not in this document can be found on our website at www.thedales.northumberland.sch.uk

You will also find our downloadable statutory policies on the website.

