

DUNEDIN SCHOOL

Delivers unique education to individuals

**Parent and Pupil
Handbook**

2021-2022

Welcome to

DUNEDIN SCHOOL

Background

Dunedin School is a small independent school providing education for young people experiencing a range of social and emotional difficulties. The school was established as The Dunedin Co-operative in 1979 and operated out of Millar Hall. In 2000, the school became a Company Limited by Guarantee, and a registered charity in Scotland. A period of planning and fundraising followed and in 2007, the school moved into Liberton Bank House, a building of historical and literary importance, after it had been renovated and adapted to our purposes.

Support for Pupils

Dunedin is a “second chance” school for those for whom mainstream schooling was found to be inappropriate. Many pupils arrive with experience of failure – this can be as a result of learning difficulties, medical concerns, or due to personal, social or emotional problems.

It is central to the Dunedin Ethos that, irrespective of a pupil’s previous learning experiences, the individual placed at Dunedin should benefit from tailored teaching in a supportive environment. It is the central guiding principle of the school that a high priority is placed on meeting the needs of and nurturing the individual. For this reason the teachers exercise a more flexible and cooperative way of working than would be the norm in a mainstream school.

Our immediate concern is to build up the individual’s self-respect, self confidence and self worth by offering a caring and supportive alternative education. We wish the young people to recognise Dunedin as their second chance school where the individual will be respected. A sense of belonging, personal worth, care and toleration of others is encouraged at all times. The relationship between the staff and pupils is more informal than mainstream and the pupils call the staff by their first names.

The Curriculum

The school provides a wide curriculum of examinable and non-examinable subjects. The school's flexible approach to learning allows pupils to develop at their own pace and can adapt to a pupil's specific needs. In addition, the high staff-to-pupil ratio and small-group teaching also caters for the individual's needs.

The timetable is carefully constructed to provide a curriculum that suits each individual as closely as possible and caters for learning needs. The teaching groups are carefully considered to create a calm learning environment in which the pupils can reap maximum benefit. Groups are formed through negotiation with all staff and, although a group usually comprises pupils working at similar levels, the ability to co-operate as a group is also important.

Examinable subjects:

- English
- Mathematics, Lifeskills Mathematics and Personal Finance
- Environmental Science, Biology and Chemistry
- Computing, Administration and IT
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics/Hospitality
- Art, Photography
- Modern Studies

Non-examinable subjects:

- Lifeskills
- Citizenship
- Comparative Religions
- CDT
- Current Affairs
- Personal and Social Education
- Sport
- Enterprise Group

Pupils are only presented for national qualifications and examinations if it is appropriate and at a suitable level. The school will enter pupils for Nationals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Highers. Units are also offered in most subjects and at a variety of levels. These can be in addition to, or as an alternative to external examinations.

Teaching Groups

The pupils are taught in small groups of 3-5 and can have individual tuition within the group or be taught a subject lesson as a small class. In both cases, differentiation and additional support for learning are automatically incorporated.

Pupil Progress

Pupil progress is regularly updated and reviewed. Reports are sent out before the two parents' evenings held in the autumn and spring terms. We keep an open door policy throughout the school year and parents are encouraged to phone or email if they have any queries or concerns about their child's progress.

YPPMs (Young People's Planning Meetings) are held at least once a year for all pupils and more regularly if required, especially during S4-S6, to ensure pupils make the transition to a positive destination. At this time advice is taken from educational psychologists, Skills Development Scotland, social workers and any other professionals involved.

Pastoral Care

We appreciate that pastoral care is very important and pupil wellbeing is at the core of everything we do.

We operate a tutor system which means that each pupil is allocated a particular member of staff. This teacher has responsibility for all aspects of pastoral care and keeps in close contact with the parents/carers.

Positive Destinations

The school has an allocated a careers advisor from Skills Development Scotland who meets with pupils in S3 and above. They give advice and guidance on college courses, Activity Agreements and can offer suggestions for possible employment.

Work experience placements are normally done in S4 or above. The school will help the pupils find suitable work placements and try to support the pupil to attend this placement.

The school will help a pupil become confident in attending college by arranging college tasters and accompanying him or her on initial visits to the college.

Code of Conduct

The pupils have written their own Code of Conduct:

- Think of others as well as yourself
- Be aware of the language you use
- Don't shout if not necessary
- No physical abuse!
- Help each other
- Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself
- Be understanding and compassionate
- Represent the school well
- Respect the school environment– treat the buildings, equipment and grounds well
- Be tolerant of others
- Try not to take your issues/problems out on others
- Be willing to try
- Be patient

We have a robust Child Protection Policy which helps school staff to support and protect the pupils, particularly those who are most vulnerable. It also serves as a resource for staff giving guidance on practice and key issues in child protection. For any child protection issues please contact Sam Peck (Child Protection Co-ordinator) or Sheila Ford (Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator).

Lunch and Break Times

It is the school's policy to allow pupils to go to Cameron Toll Shopping Centre at break and lunch times. This is of course subject to the pupils' behaviour being acceptable both in school and at the shopping centre. If it is unacceptable then this privilege will immediately be withdrawn. Pupils can also bring a packed lunch to school and sit in one of the classrooms or in the school grounds.

Some families may be eligible for free school meals. If you feel your child might be eligible then please look at your local council's website under school grants.

Outdoor Education and Transport

Outdoor education and school trips play an important part in pupils' personal and educational experience at Dunedin including field trips, sporting activities and arts events and an annual residential trip. Pupils are transported on these outings in a staff member's own vehicle and parents are asked to sign a consent form at the beginning of each year.

Mobile Phones

The increasing benefits of mobile phones and other digital devices are recognised. Pupils are expected to use these devices responsibly and sensibly while in school and to follow the instruction of staff. Phones and digital devices can only be used at break and lunch times (unless a teacher allows their use as part of the lesson). Pupils are not to take photos of or film other pupils or staff.

Health

The school follows current Scottish Government guidelines and we do not allow high energy and high caffeine drinks in school. Parents are asked to support us in this and not send any such drinks in to school.

All pupils will be offered routine immunisations and can be referred for medical support and advice to the School Health Service.

Any Problems and Suggestions

Dunedin School welcomes suggestions and comments from parents/carers and takes seriously any concerns they may raise. If you have an issue you would like to discuss, please speak to Rosie Galloway, School Administrator, in the first instance who will try to resolve the issue as quickly as possible or if it is more complex will investigate it further. Dunedin School recognises and acknowledges your entitlement to complain and we hope to work with you in the best interest of the young people in our school.

Organisation and Staff

Dunedin School operates as a co-operative in which there is a flat management structure. The staff work co-operatively within a team as a means of managing school tasks and delivering a comprehensive curriculum to all pupils. Dunedin School currently employs 9 part time Teachers, 1 Administrator, 2 Classroom Assistants and 1 voluntary School Assistant.

The current Dunedin staff are:

English	- Elaine Foulner
Mathematics, Lifeskills Mathematics & Personal Finance	- Helen Oglesby
Environmental Science, Chemistry, PSE	- Steve Begarnie
Environmental Science, Biology, Computing	- Amanda Butters
Computing & Administration IT	- Paul Gardner
Geography	- Cathy Murray
History, Modern Studies and PSE	- Vicky Cole
Art & Crafts	- Annie Lacey
Home Economics & Life Skills	- Gill Hinton
Art & Design, CDT, Photography, Support for Learning	- Anne Gatherar
Finance	- Sheila Ford
School Administrator	- Rosie Galloway
Classroom Assistants	- Jen Hackland & Chris Cartwright
School Assistant	- Kate Cadzow

The current Board of Governors are:

Mr Basil Morrison (Chair)
Ms Fiona Ferguson
Mr Bill Henry
Ms Lesley Beddie
Mr Charles McGregor
Ms Rhona Trotter

Dates for Session 2021-2022

Classes start at 9.00am and run through to 3.00pm every day.

Autumn Term 2021

Start of Term

Wednesday 25th August

Half Term

Monday 18th October to Friday 29th October inclusive

End of Term

Friday 17th December 12:00noon

Spring Term 2022

Start of Term

Wednesday 5th January

Half Term

Monday 14th February to Monday 21st February inclusive

End of Term

Wednesday 6th April 12.15pm

Summer Term 2022

Start of Term

Monday 25th April

Half Term

Monday 23rd May – Wednesday 25th May inclusive

End of Term

Friday 24th June 12:00 noon

Contact us at:

Dunedin School

Liberton Bank House

5 Nether Liberton Lane

Edinburgh, EH16 5TY

Tel. 0131 672 2638

staff@dunedin.edin.sch.uk

www.dunedinschool.org