

Arbour House School



Main Prospectus

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Welcome to Arbour House School

Arbour House School provides a bespoke education for pupils aged 6-16 years with a range of complex needs, including SLD, MLD, ADHD, ASD and related social and communication difficulties.

We offer all pupils the opportunity to engage in their local community and to develop positive and trusting relationships with their peers and staff. We give pupils choices, the ability to contribute with confidence, to be heard, and to feel valued.

We want all of our pupils to have a positive experience in a safe and nurturing environment where they can achieve to the very best of their ability.

We take into account individual strengths and interests and support pupils to work towards their own goals and aspirations.

We believe every pupil is special and our experienced staff team support them on their unique journey with care, commitment and empathy.

Our Aims

- To adopt a pupil-centred approach and empower pupils to contribute to their own learning experience.
- To tailor our provision to meet the education, care, health and well-being needs of our pupils.
- To inspire learning in creative ways to promote pupils' engagement, progress and personal development.
- To work with families, professionals, and other relevant partners to ensure transitions are as seamless as possible.

At Arbour House School we aim to provide a happy, positive, and fulfilling school experience, and to nurture in all of our pupils a love of learning and an enhanced sense of well-being. We want our pupils to develop greater independence, be prepared for key stage transitions, and leave us at the end of their education equipped with the confidence and skills to take their place as contributing and valued members of their community.

We promote equality and diversity and appreciate the value that each pupil brings. We ensure that each pupil's unique requirements are embedded into their individual learning programmes and that they are provided with what they need to experience personal growth, success and a sense of well-being.

How the School is Organised:

Each Key Stage of the school has its own team of specialist staff and its own suite of classrooms, furnished and equipped to a high standard.

Pupils are generally taught in small groups of 3-4, although can be taught individually if needs be for their core curriculum. We also offer pupils the opportunity to work in larger groups and to participate in whole school activities as appropriate.

We group pupils according to chronological age to give them an opportunity to form friendships with their peers, but we recognise too that for some pupils 'stage-appropriate' may be more suitable than 'age-appropriate' and as such some pupils may be in cross-phase groups for some of their lessons.

Key Stages 1 and 2

Primary pupils are placed into classrooms on the ground floor. There are three main Primary rooms called Pebble, Coral and Rock:

Pebble



Coral



Rock



Key Stages 3 and 4

Secondary pupils are in classrooms on the first floor, in Lighthouse, Harbour and Pier.

Lighthouse



Harbour



Pier



Key Stages 4 and 5

Pupils in Key Stage 4 are primarily located in Lagoon, also on the first floor, although they can access the Sixth Form areas, Reef and Ocean, if appropriate or if working alongside students in Key Stage 5 in preparation for transition or if in a cross-phase group.

Lagoon



Reef



Ocean



How the Curriculum Works:

At Arbour House School we aim to retain most of the statutory elements of the National Curriculum within our Learning Pathways mapping. It is then adapted to meet the special educational needs of our pupils. We believe that this ensures that our pupils have equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum tailored to their individual needs.

Pupils in Key Stages 1-4 follow a core curriculum to support the acquisition of basic skills for life, the key elements of this are English, Maths and Information and Communication Technology. They also follow a differentiated PSHE programme, have weekly PE sessions to support their physical development, and have the opportunity to study Science as part of their core provision.

Other curriculum offered includes Life and Living Skills, Humanities (delivered through half termly 'Topic Work'), and weekly Creative Curriculum sessions that offer pupils the opportunity to work in a fun, hands on and creative way, either individually, in peer groups or as a whole school.

In Creative Curriculum pupils learn more about themselves and the world around them. They explore areas of the curriculum and alternative ways of learning not necessarily covered in other subjects, and our CC planning embeds pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development as well as enhancing and supporting their understanding of Fundamental British Values.

We offer pupils a weekly 'Group Games' session that is designed specifically to develop their social and communication skills, their ability to share and work with others, and

also embeds our work on Fundamental British Values and SMSC. It improves their self-esteem and self-confidence, and they learn of the roles and responsibilities of being a valued member of our school community in addition to developing their understanding of citizenship and the wider community.

Pupils are supported to access their local community at least weekly. They are encouraged to visit shops, use the library or leisure facilities like the gym, swimming pool and outdoor education centre, participate in local services, classes or events, volunteer, or simply enjoy our coastal location!

Our Curriculum Model:



We aim to make learning relevant to pupils' lives in a way that is purposeful, functional and can be applied to real life situations. For older pupils this may include opportunities to experience vocational and/or work-based learning and participate in travel training to promote increased confidence and greater independence.

Our Bespoke Approach:

Within this overarching framework, the curriculum aims to be bespoke to meet pupils' individual special educational needs and is guided by their Education, Health and Care Plans.

All pupils will progress through our Learning Pathways for English, Maths, Science and ICT, but we understand that one size does not fit all; our pupils often have spikied learning profiles, or have experienced significant gaps in learning, so what Learning Pathway they are working on will vary from pupil to pupil and from subject to subject, according to the unique skills and abilities of each child.

Many of our pupils need their core provision supplemented too, by a varied sensory diet for example, with sessions for sensory integration incorporated into their timetable, or additional Occupational Therapy or Speech and Language Interventions and we work closely with other professionals in a multi-agency way to ensure that pupils' wider needs are met in a cohesive and holistic way.



Breakout rooms, quiet spaces and sensory tents are available for all pupils and breaks from their schedules and timetables can be taken whenever necessary.

Pupils may also benefit from visual timetables, PEC's, point scales, social stories, or an even more specific individualised learning environment, and we aim to ensure that we provide everything our pupils need to enable them to be successful and to feel safe.



All pupils have a Positive Behaviour Support Plan. These are written together with our Positive Behaviour Support Facilitator, pupils, their parents/carers and any associated professionals. This details what works well for individuals, what their triggers may be,

and how best to support them in times of anxiety, stress or difficulty. They are reviewed regularly to ensure they best meet pupils' needs.

Arbour House is also a registered THRIVE school. We have our own licensed Thrive Practitioners that can offer 1:1 timetabled sessions to all pupils. Pupils have Thrive Assessments and Action Plans, to support the development of their emotional resilience.

Qualifications and Extended Learning Opportunities:

Some pupils from Key Stage 4 onwards may manage working towards more formal qualifications. Our English and Maths from KS4 onwards can be accredited through Edexcel at a range of learning levels, from Functional Skills Entry Level 1 to GCSE's for suitable candidates.

Our Life and Living Skills curriculum is accredited through OCR and offers a comprehensive range of versatile and adaptable qualifications, with no minimum entry requirements. Many of the tasks and activities that pupils are engaged in across the curriculum can be accredited as part of this OCR qualification.

We can offer a range of academic and vocational learning opportunities via links with Weymouth College, Employ My Ability, Dorset Abilities, Rylands Farm, Dorset Wildlife Trust, RSPB and other local community and business partnerships.



Transition to Sixth Form:

Arbour House School offers Sixth Form provision for KS5 pupils and it is therefore possible for children to remain at Arbour House for an all-through education, from age 6 to 18. For many pupils with complex SEN this is significantly reassuring, avoiding the unnecessary stress and anxiety of further transition.

Please see the Sixth Form Prospectus on our website for more information.

Other Useful Information:

The School Day:

- The school day starts at 9.00 am and finishes at 3.00 pm.
- Staff meet for Daily Briefing 8.40 am – 9.00 am and are thus not able to staff pupils directly before 9.00 am.
- Most of our pupils arrive by taxi/school transport. This is organised by the SEN Team at County Hall when pupils join Arbour House.
- Every day starts with a 30 minute 'Check-In'. This allows pupils time to settle and prepare for their day, complete any OT, sensory integration, or motor skills work, and have an opportunity to share how they are feeling.
- There are 5 lessons per day and we aim to complete all of our 'formal' learning in the mornings, when pupils' concentration and energy levels are at their best.
- In the afternoons much of our more creative and off-site curriculum takes place, like Topic Work, Independent Living Skills, Travel Training, P.E. and Special Interest Time for example.

Breaks and Lunch:

- Morning Break is at 11.00 am and consists of a drink and a healthy snack, usually fresh fruit, provided by parents/carers.
- Lunch is in the Dining Room. Times are staggered to allow for a freer flow of pupils and a manageable environment for pupils that find busy times difficult.

Primary lunch is 12.00-12.30 pm and Secondary lunch is 12.30-1.00 pm.



- The school provides a healthy lunch free of charge and we encourage pupils to eat with their peers where possible.
- Pupils can access the playground at Morning Break and after lunch until 1.15 pm.

- There are separate outdoor areas for Primary and Secondary pupils to facilitate different recreational needs and age-appropriate play.
- Pupils can also be taken off-site for breaks and lunch if appropriate and of benefit to them, for a walk or a jog, to access local playgrounds and picnic spots, or to use the local outdoor gym for example.



Homework:

- We do not routinely give homework to pupils as for the vast majority of them homework was one of the key stressors in their previous educational placements. Many of our pupils also prefer to keep home and school 'separate' in order for it to feel manageable, but homework can be made available to any pupil or parent/carer that would like to receive it.

Uniform:

- In line with DfE recommendations, Arbour House has a school uniform that all pupils need to wear, unless they are in the Sixth Form, and then it is optional.
- Further information about our uniform, including a full uniform list and advice regarding other essential items pupils will need can be found on our school website.

The School Office:

- The Office is staffed from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday term time only.
- The Office deals with all enquiries and messages and will aim to deal promptly with any requests or concerns that you may have.
- If you would prefer to speak to your child's teacher, please be aware that teachers are not generally available until after 3.00 pm due to teaching commitments, but a message can be left and they will return your call as soon as possible.
- You can also call the School Office on 01305 871400 or email us at arboursadmin@potens-education.co.uk if you require further information about the school or would like to arrange a visit. We look forward to meeting you!