

Information on Special Educational Needs provision for children living in Dorset

Including a guide to special schools and bases

Dorset County Council



Improving the quality of life for people in Dorset,
now and for the future

May 2007

SEN provision for children living in Dorset

Including a guide to special schools and bases

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Section 1

Introduction

This guide gives information on all the special schools/bases and special services which are provided by Dorset County Council. It can only provide basic information. Please also refer to section 10 of this guide, which provides useful references for parents and carers.

The special educational needs (SEN) of children will normally be met in mainstream schools or settings. Dorset County Council is fully committed to inclusion for all children, as set out in its Inclusion Strategy, March 2004, which can be found on www.dorsetforyou.com. Children with special educational needs should be offered full access to a broad, balanced and relevant education. In order to achieve this, additional support is provided at mainstream schools to enable children with special educational needs to access the curriculum alongside their peers. A small minority of children have exceptional and complex special educational needs, and their education is provided within one of Dorset's special schools, or SEN bases.

There are schools for children with moderate learning difficulties/complex (significant additional learning needs) and severe/profound and multiple learning difficulties. There are special bases for pupils with moderate learning difficulties/complex (significant additional learning needs), dyslexia (specific learning difficulties), speech and language difficulties, autism, Asperger's Syndrome, physical difficulties and behaviour, emotional and social difficulties.

Admission to all maintained special schools and bases is the responsibility of the local authority. Placements are decided by the local authority through advice given at termly Admissions Advisory Panels. The panels comprise: an Education Officer, Headteacher/Teacher-in-charge of the special school/base, Educational Psychologist, representatives of the Health Care Trust or specialist service involved with the child. The procedures and guidelines for panels are set out in Dorset's Funding For Inclusion Booklet Five 'Guidelines on Admissions to and exit from Special Schools and Bases within Mainstream', April 2005, and are summarised in 'Special Schools/Bases Admission Panels: Information for Parents/Carers,' June 2005. Both are available on www.dorsetforyou.com.

For a child to be referred to the Admissions Panel, they must be at School Action Plus or Early Years Action Plus (for pre-school children) or they must have a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Referrals to Admissions Panels are usually made through the Educational Psychologist who provides up-to-date advice on the individual pupil. Parents can also request that their child be referred to an Admissions Panel; up-to-date professional advice will be required for their child to be considered.

Section 2

Support for pupils with special educational needs

This section details the support services that Dorset County Council's Children's Services Directorate provides to help pupils with special educational needs in schools; a section about the Connexions Service is also included. Information on the services is provided in the following order:

- 2.1 Administration of Special Education
- 2.2 Behaviour Support Service (Schools)
- 2.3 County Psychological Service
- 2.4 Hearing & Vision Support Services (HVSS)
- 2.5 Education Social Work and Attendance Service (ESWAS)
- 2.6 Children Out of School Service (COOSS)
- 2.7 SEN Specialist Services (SENSS)
- 2.8 Parent Partnership Service
- 2.9 School Transport
- 2.10 Learning Support for Pupils with Special Educational Needs
- 2.11 Connexions Service

2.1 Administration of Special Education

The Special Education Team is based at County Hall, Dorchester. The general telephone number for enquires is 01305 224888.

The Special Education Team deals with all arrangements during the statutory assessment of a child, the preparation of a Statement and the continuing work related to the Statement. This involves the team in making arrangements for children who have special educational needs to be placed at mainstream schools, special schools or bases; to make the necessary arrangements for any special provision to meet their varying needs and to initiate the Annual Review and Transitional Review processes.

The Special Education Team provides a co-ordinating role in the assessment and statementing of children with special educational needs, ensuring that the procedure follows the proper path and that information between professionals and parents flows smoothly.

The local authority holds meetings on a termly basis to look at the needs of pre-school and school-age children who have physical disabilities and/or hearing/visual impairment/loss and their requirements in terms of building adaptations. This group, which comprises Education Officers within the SEN, Premises and HVSS Teams, will consider the facilities available at different schools and, taking into account the views of parents, advise the authority on the most suitable school for the child.

2.2 Behaviour Support Service (Schools)

The Behaviour Support Service provides support to pupils who are experiencing emotional, social and behaviour difficulties. The service also supports schools in developing good consistent practice in the management of behaviour and supporting emotional development and well being.

The service offers professional development to teaching staff, support staff and other groups. Where individual casework is undertaken, the service aims to work in a multi-agency manner and liaises closely with parents and carers.

Referrals are generally made through the school or other agency but parents/carers are welcome to contact the head of service for general advice.

For further information, please go to www.dorsetforyou.com or telephone:

East Area: (01202) 870130

West Area: (01305) 851300

2.3 County Psychological Service

Educational Psychologists guide and support schools, early years settings, parents and others in the management of learning, social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. They may see individual children as part of this process. They also give more general advice about the psychological and educational development of children. This involves Educational Psychologists in the further training of teachers, teaching assistants, early years providers and other groups. They also work with officers of the local authority (including social work teams) and Health Trusts to plan and co-ordinate support for children and their families.

Each Educational Psychologist covers a geographical area/community including a number of schools. Individual children are normally referred by schools, the Health Trusts or by social work teams. Parents may refer their children direct, although for school-aged children it is usually better for a parent, initially, to discuss their concerns with the Headteacher.

A booklet for parents and carers about the Psychology Service is available on www.dorsetforyou.com

Educational Psychologists may be contacted on:

East Area: (01202) 870130

West Area: (01305) 851300

2.4 Hearing & Vision Support Services (HVSS)

Hearing and Vision Support Services, (HVSS), is staffed by qualified Teachers of the Deaf and qualified Teachers of Visually-Impaired Children. These specialist teachers work in support of pupils, parents and schools to provide specific advice and teaching according to need.

The services have a role in the identification and assessment of children with sensory impairment, with a remit to support as required from diagnosis (usually at the pre-school stage) up to school leaving age.

Most children with a sensory impairment will attend their local mainstream school. Children with a wide range of needs are supported in mainstream schools, from those with mild hearing loss to profound deafness and from minor visual impairment to total blindness. Some will need specific one-to-one support from a Teaching Assistant and many will require specialist teaching from the staff within the HVSS team.

Hearing and visual impairment are relatively 'low incidence', but there is a requirement for a high level of specialism in terms of expertise, guidance and advice.

HVSS operates under the terms of a joint arrangement with Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole to provide a cohesive regional service, allowing the skills of a larger staff to be available across a wider area.

Information about the Hearing and Vision Support Services is available on www.dorsetforyou.com

Enquiries about the work of the service should be directed to:

West Office: (01305) 851300

East Office: (01202) 870130

2.5 Education Social Work and Attendance Service (ESWAS)

Every school has an allocated Education Social Worker.

Education Social Workers provide practical help and advice on school attendance, pupils' social and emotional problems, child protection procedures and the Children Act. The service is keen to help all children make the best use of their educational opportunities. They work in partnership with parents, pupils and schools to improve attendance.

Pupils or parents are very welcome to contact the service for confidential advice or help about any matter that is affecting a child's education or which is causing concern.

Information is available on www.dorsetforyou.com

Education Social Workers may be contacted through the school or by telephoning the Education Social Work Offices on the following numbers:

East Office: (01202) 870130 covering North & East Dorset

West Office: (01305) 851300 covering South & West Dorset

2.6 Children Out of School Service (COOSS)

When a pupil is unable to attend school for a significant period, the local authority may provide some part-time teaching through the Children Out of School Service (COOSS). Children may be too ill to attend, may be suffering from a psychological

disturbance, which prevents them from attending school, may have been excluded from school or may be awaiting a place in a school. Teaching is provided either in the child's home or in one of the Learning Centres. These have small groups of children, carefully grouped according to their needs, who are taught together by centre teaching staff. For children on a school roll, close links are maintained with the school.

Children thought to need help from COOSS are referred by the Community Paediatrician, Educational Psychologist or other specialists. All cases, except medical cases and those children who have been permanently excluded from mainstream school, are discussed at the COOSS Admissions / Referrals Panel. Routine medical referrals are passed to the Zone Managers as they arise.

For further information, including contact details for the learning centres, please see Section 7.

General enquiries about the COOSS should be directed to (01305) 228658

2.7 SEN Specialist Services (SENSS)

SENSS provides an expert service of highly trained and specialist qualified teachers who offer specialist professional support to schools in respect of specific learning difficulties including dyslexia, language disorder, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, Asperger's Syndrome and mild autism, plus the broader range of special educational needs.

The focus of SENSS is pupil progress and achievement. To achieve this SENSS provides two separate areas of service, namely direct pupil support and school support. Together these services can help the school arrange effective special educational needs provision, particularly for pupils with complex learning needs, fulfilling governors' responsibilities and safeguarding the school from potential parental complaint.

Direct Pupil Support includes:

- assessment
- teaching
- learning programme planning
- monitoring and review

School Support includes:

- advice
- liaison
- training

SENSS is a delegated service. Further information can be obtained from:

Maureen Tepper	Head of Service (01305) 851300
Kitty Huthwaite	Deputy Head of Service (East) (01202) 870130
Isobel Allan	Deputy Head of Service (West) (01305) 851300

2.8 Parent Partnership Service

Dorset has set up a Parent Partnership Service to encourage closer relationships between parents, schools, Children's Services and other agencies in the interests of children with special educational needs.

Dorset Parent Partnership Service offers independent information and support for parents and works closely with the local authority, other agencies and the voluntary sector. It provides support to parents who may have concerns about their child's education, including those children with special needs.

The service has five aims:

- 1 to help parents/carers who have children with special educational needs
- 2 to give independent information and support
- 3 to help parents make informed choices about their child's education
- 4 to encourage closer working relationships between parents, their child's school, the local authority and other agencies
- 5 to support schools in continuing to develop good working practices with parents.

The service currently has three Parent Partnership Officers who can offer support and information to parents on the identification and assessment of their child's special educational needs. They can also arrange for a parent to have the support of an Independent Parental Supporter (IPS). An IPS is a volunteer who has been trained to support parents in becoming full partners in the process of identifying and assessing their child's special educational needs and deciding the appropriate provision to meet those needs. An IPS can help parents by:

- being a listening friend
- helping parents express their views about the child
- explaining letters parents may have received about their child
- accompanying parents to meetings/school visits
- talking through worries and concerns
- assisting parents with filling out of forms, writing letters, etc.

Information about the service is available on www.dorsetforyou.com

The current Parent Partnership Officers telephone numbers are:

North Dorset:	Anne Barker	Tel (01300) 341978
West / South Dorset:	Julie Daulby	Tel (01305) 250766
East Dorset:	Jane Schmidt	Tel (01202) 577453

2.9 School transport

Transport is provided for Dorset children who attend special schools and bases, in line with the county School Transport Policy.

Many of these children can travel in ordinary coaches and buses, but some need much more specialised provision. In some cases, specially adapted vehicles are used so that the child can travel in his or her own wheelchair. Special seating and harnessing is provided for children with particular needs, and passenger assistants travel on many of the vehicles in order to deal with any problems during the journey. Although private contractors provide most of the transport, the authority owns some specially adapted vehicles. These are equipped with tail lifts and special tracking for wheelchairs.

Dorset will normally provide travel assistance to special schools where:

- a child is attending the nearest appropriate special school to their home (as named on his or her Statement of Special Educational Needs).

Transport to bases will be provided where:

- the distance between home and school is more than two miles (for children in year 3 and below) or more than three miles (for children in year 4 and above). Assistance may be given within the distance limits where a child's needs make this essential.

If a child does not qualify for travel assistance to a base, there may be a possibility of paying for a concessionary seat on a contracted school vehicle. These places can only be offered where spare seats are available.

For further information about transport to special schools/bases please contact: Dave Besant on (01305) 268775.

For information about the transport of children with disabilities who attend mainstream schools or concessionary travel please telephone (01305) 224332.

Further information is provided in booklet 'Transport for Children attending Special Schools and Bases: A guide for parents and carers', April 2005.

2.10 Learning support for pupils with special educational needs

Pupils with special educational needs are often provided with additional support in the classroom. The support enables the pupil to receive additional help under the direction of the classteacher, enabling the pupil to make progress according to his/her abilities. Most schools employ teaching assistants through a combination of funding from the local authority and the schools' delegated SEN funding. Since April 2005 the majority of SEN funding is delegated to schools budgets. This means that additional support can be made available for pupils without the need for a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Full details of the authority's SEN funding arrangements are contained in a series of booklets which make up 'The Provision and Funding Arrangements for Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)', April 2005. This can be viewed, in full, on www.dorsetforyou.com. A shorter summary, for parents/carers and schools, is available in the leaflet 'Funding for Inclusion: Information on Funding for Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Mainstream Schools', April 2005.

The authority provides training for teaching assistants in a range of areas including:

- The SEN Code of Practice
- learning styles
- individual pupils in the school
- behaviour management
- speech and language development
- literacy development
- autistic spectrum disorders
- motor co-ordination and perceptual difficulties
- sensory impairments.

The emphasis is on understanding what makes learning difficult for some children and ways they can be supported in the classroom.

2.11 Connexions (Bournemouth, Poole & Dorset)

Connexions is the information, advice and guidance service in England for all 13 to 19 year old young people. For those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities this can extend to 25 years old.

The aim of the Connexions Service is to provide all teenagers with the 'best start in life' by providing the help and support they need to prepare for the transition to work and adult life. Connexions is an inclusive service, bringing together all the organisations that support young people, ensuring that young people are not passed from pillar to post.

The service is drawn together from a range of existing public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations, and builds on best practice. These organisations have come together to form Connexions Partnerships to develop and co-ordinate the delivery of support services for young people. Connexions is delivered primarily through a network of Personal Advisers linking in with specialist support services.

Connexions went live across Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole in April 2002. Personal Advisers work in Connexions shops, schools, colleges and through outreach, with young people and their parents/carers to put together an individual package of high quality information, advice, guidance, personal development opportunities and other support that matches individual needs.

Connexions ensures that all young people have access to the support and guidance they need, when and wherever they need it, regardless of their circumstances. The service aims to ensure that no young person falls through the net of support and is left to face issues alone.

Personal Advisers work with schools, colleges and other providers to support young people through their key transitions. As they progress to adult life all young people with disabilities will receive the support appropriate to their level of need. Personal Advisers will therefore:

- attend the Year 9 transition review and help draw up a transition plan
- attend most subsequent review and action planning meetings
- help and advise on the progression into further education, work, training or employment, giving support needed to access these opportunities
- help to overcome any barriers to moving into opportunities
- help with the transition to support from the Employment Service and other adult services at 19
- continue to support those young people with complex needs until they are 25

Connexions ensures that all young people receive impartial careers information and guidance to help them take the next steps into learning or employment.

Personal Advisers work in partnership with other key services to ensure that both young people with disabilities and their parents/carers receive information, help and advice on all of the available options. This could include supported accommodation, access to community activities or information and advice on any other service that might help them to 'make the best start'.

Connexions office addresses

Partnership office

Ansbury House, 2 Pendruffle Lane,
Poundbury,
Dorchester, DT1 3WJ
Telephone (01305) 755160
Fax (01305) 264545

Bournemouth area

Bournemouth Shop, 5 & 6 Lansdowne House,
Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, BH1 3JP
Telephone (01202) 315331
Fax (01202) 315332

Dorset south and west area

Weymouth Shop, 29 St Thomas Street,
Weymouth, DT4 8EJ
Telephone (01305) 782180
Fax (01305) 784321

Dorset north and east area

Blandford Shop, 7 & 8 Barnack Walk,
Blandford, DT11 7AL
Telephone (01258) 454454
Fax (01258) 455787

Gillingham Shop, Unit 1 Clive House,
High Street,
Gillingham, SP8 4QT
Telephone (01747) 826358
Fax (01747) 826246

Poole area

Poole Shop, 3 Kingland Road,
Poole, BH15 1SH
Telephone (01202) 677557
Fax (01202) 677388

Section 3

Pre-school support

1. Portage Pre-school Learning Support (PLS)

Portage PLS is an educational visiting service provided for pre-school children who may have special educational needs, their families and pre-school settings. In recent years, Portage PLS has been extended to those children whose difficulties are more to do with behaviour.

The service is based on regular visits to the home and pre-school settings, where appropriate, by a specially trained Portage Consultant, experienced in pre-school education and SEN. After an initial assessment and introductory visit, if Portage is felt to be appropriate, a Portage Worker will decide, in consultation with the parent/carer, on specific activities to work on during each week with the child and set new ones, depending on his/her progress. With parent/carer permission, she will also liaise with other professionals who may be involved with the child, to ensure a consistent approach and to gain advice as appropriate. An Individual Development Plan is designed to address specific needs, and reviewed at regular intervals. New skills are taught in small, achievable stages so that parent/carer and child enjoy learning together.

For further information, please contact:
Lindsey Howell, Principal Portage PLS Consultant
Pupil & School Improvement Service
1 Cedar House
Cedar Office Park
Cobham Road
Ferndown
Wimborne
Dorset BH21 7SB

Telephone (01202) 870130

2. Support in pre-school settings

Children with special educational needs are supported within pre-school settings – such as playgroups, nurseries, registered childminders – from their Government funding for 3 and 4 year olds. Most settings receive this funding. Should further support be needed, Dorset can fund this directly to pre-schools. Children are referred by parents, pre-school staff, health professionals or Early Years/Inclusion Consultants. Each setting has a Special Needs Co-ordinator, and an Early Years/Inclusion Consultant, who support the pre-school settings in identifying and meeting the needs of all the children.

For further information please contact:

Early Years/Inclusion Consultants
Telephone (01305) 224846

3. Funding for pre-school children with special educational needs

A significant number of children at some time during their early development will have special educational needs of some kind. The vast majority of these children will have these needs met by everyday arrangements made in pre-school settings. Some will need extra help and this will initially be provided by the pre-school educational setting. For children with more severe difficulties, additional adult help can be funded by the Children's Services Directorate – SEN Team, Pupil & School Improvement, County Hall.

The funding is specifically targeted at those pre-school children with recognised difficulties for whom additional help will provide support to address their specific educational needs. The aim of this early intervention is to provide enhanced opportunities for the pre-school child.

Funding will be provided based on advice received from the Portage PLS Service and other professionals involved with the child. Progress reports and Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will be required from the pre-school setting to monitor the child's development.

The SEN Team is not able to assist with funding or part-funding of fees in any pre-school setting.

4. Nurseries attached to special schools

A number of special schools in Dorset have nurseries for children aged from 2+. Admission arrangements for these nurseries are the same as special schools. Referrals are initially made through the Community Paediatrician or the Educational Psychologist.

Where a pre-school child is admitted to the nursery class of one of Dorset's special schools, normally on a part-time basis, they are deemed to be accessing pre-school provision and support at the special school for the maximum hours in accordance with Sure Start Code of Practice. The authority is unable to fund SEN support in another pre school setting in addition to this.

5. General

The local authority recognises children with complex needs have a large number of different agencies involved with them. It is not the remit of any one of these professionals to make decisions about future educational arrangements for the child in isolation. The SEN team will consider setting up multi-agency meetings with colleagues, with parents' consent, for such pupils of pre-school age. The meetings will help the process of deciding on appropriate future educational arrangements for the child.

Section 4

Special schools

This section lists the special schools in Dorset, gives details of the Headteacher, address of the school, and the type of pupil that the school caters for.

There is also a short section giving some general information about the school and additional information provided by the school itself. Further information can be obtained from the school direct, or from the school prospectus. Please telephone the school if you wish to receive a copy of the school prospectus.

The special schools in this section are listed in the following order:

Beaucroft School
Mountjoy School
Westfield Technology College
Wyvern School
Yewstock School

Beaucroft School www.beaucroft.ik.org

Headteacher: Mr P McGill
Address: Wimborne Road, Colehill, Wimborne, BH21 2SS
Telephone: (01202) 886083 **Fax:** (01202) 848459
E-mail: office@beaucroft.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Foundation **Age range:** 4 – 16
Planned places: 127 (excluding the ASD Base)
Caters for: MLD/Complex (pupils with significant additional learning needs)
Geographic areas: Wimborne, Christchurch, Wareham, Swanage, Bournemouth & Poole

General information: Beaucroft is a successful special school, with an enviable reputation both locally and nationally. "It has an ethos and positive atmosphere which is apparent the moment you walk through the door"..."an outstanding ethos where all are valued"(Ofsted 2002).

There are numerous references in many different sources that allude to "The Beaucroft Factor", something the staff and Governors have tried to analyse, hard to put on paper, but something definitely tangible if you spend some time in the place. The overall school structure and timetable has been carefully constructed to ensure the correct balance of subjects applicable to the needs of the child and National Curriculum requirements.

Meeting the child's primary learning need is one of the established aims of the school. The school structure ensures greater opportunity for 'personalised learning' by engaging children in learning and ensuring progress is made. All staff know the needs of the children in their care extremely well and a great deal of effort is spent on both termly target setting and annual report writing to ensure the stated needs are met.

At years 9, 10 and 11, the levels of access to the ASDAN accreditation scheme have increased in response to significant variations between groups of learners. There are now three curriculum pathways (Bronze Award, Life Skills and Transition Challenge) to meet the needs of the learners and to ensure a relevant and meaningful life skills experience.

There is an extensive programme of outreach undertaken by a team of experienced teachers and teaching assistants across all phases in the school. It has a proven reputation locally with exciting development envisaged as we become more involved with the recently formed East Dorset Education Partnership - the only special school in a partnership of 31 schools across all phases in the Wimborne and Ferndown area.

Beaucroft has close links with Canford School (a local independent boarding school), involving regular use of their extensive sporting and expressive arts facilities and their senior students attending Beaucroft as part of their Community Service and Work Placement programme.

The school is currently working towards the 'Healthy Schools Award' and Specialist School Status in the latest launch of the status relating specifically to Special Schools. Beaucroft was previously a 'Beacon School' 2002 – 2005. It received School of Achievement Award 2003 and was mentioned in the HMI report of 2003 as an 'Outstanding Special School'.

Investor in People status was awarded in December 2004 at the first attempt – recognition was given to the commitment of staff and their "model of TA integration, the best ever seen".

Mountjoy School www.mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs P Stewart
Address: Flood Lane, Bridport, DT6 3QG
Telephone: (01308) 422250 **Fax:** (01308) 458664
E-mail: office@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 2 – 19
Planned places: 37 (excluding the ASD Base)
Caters for: Pupils with severe, complex or profound and multiple learning difficulties
Geographic areas: Bridport, Lyme Regis, Beaminster, Dorchester, Weymouth

General information: Mountjoy has a number of aims for all pupils. These are outlined in the school prospectus and include assisting pupils to develop self-reliance,

to learn to make choices, to acquire a high level of self-esteem and to develop the ability to effectively communicate their thoughts and feelings.

Mountjoy's dedicated teaching and support staff are well-qualified and experienced in planning and setting individual learning objectives for all pupils, working towards National Curriculum targets and using a 'small steps' approach to learning.

Regular visiting therapists include physiotherapists, music therapist, speech & language therapists, occupational therapists, aromatherapist, school nurse, dental hygienists, link educational psychologist and teachers from the Hearing & Vision Support Services.

Resources at Mountjoy School include a large multi-sensory room, a hydrotherapy pool, extensive IT equipment in all classrooms and three wheelchair-friendly vehicles. Pupils may also benefit from horse-riding, outdoor education, topic-based outings, residential school journeys and links with mainstream schools, including part-time placements, where appropriate.

Dorset County Council has given a commitment to rebuild Mountjoy School and it is likely that this major project will begin within the very near future.

Westfield Technology College

www.westfield.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Phil Silvester
Address: Littlemoor Road, Preston, Weymouth, DT3 6AA
Telephone: (01305) 833518 **Fax:** (01305) 835414
E-mail: office@westfield.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Foundation **Age range:** 3 – 16
Planned places: 150 (excluding the ASD Base)
Caters for: MLD/Complex (pupils with significant additional learning needs)
Geographic areas: Dorchester, Weymouth, Portland, Wareham, Bovington & Swanage

General information: Westfield Technology College caters for the special educational needs of pupils with moderate/complex learning difficulties and/or autism. Pupils are generally grouped according to their age. The college has a curriculum which allows all pupils to develop their full potential within a warm and welcoming environment. All the children are in small teaching groups (typically 8-10 pupils) that are well staffed (with a teacher and at least one full-time teaching assistant) and supported by other professionals, such as speech and language therapists, occupational therapist, educational psychologists, social workers and medical professionals. Each pupil's Statement of special educational needs is reviewed annually through a rigorous Annual Review process.

Each pupil enjoys a curriculum tailored to his/her individual needs through the use of Individual Educational Plans, Positive Handling Plans and personalised programmes.

All pupils have the maximum access to a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum which provides ample opportunities for first-hand experiences, educational visits and inclusive activities (particularly involving partner schools in the local Chesil Educational Partnership). A varied range of planned activities is provided to give the pupils every possible opportunity to build up their self-confidence. Success and individual achievement are recognised, celebrated and valued by both staff and pupils alike in a positive attempt to motivate the children to enjoy and succeed in their learning. This works – Westfield pupils enjoy school (see OfSTED Report – March 2006).

There are well-resourced classrooms, a well-stocked library and specialist rooms for ICT, music, art, food technology, design and technology and a purpose-built science laboratory. All the classrooms have at least one computer on a school-wide network of over 80 PCs linked to the Internet. A £2.8M capital project (new building extension) was completed in 2006; this extension offers superb complementary specialist facilities including additional class rooms, a new ICT Suite, a training suite, a sensory room, a drama/therapy room, a gym and a sports hall (with integral climbing wall). At Key Stage 4 all students follow the national ASDAN Youth Award Scheme (which can be continued at Weymouth College). Students at Key Stage 4 are also involved in (i) link courses at Weymouth College, (ii) community service, (iii) work experience, (iv) GCSEs in art, english, maths, design technology and science (as appropriate), (v) the AQA Unit Award Scheme and (vi) Entry Level Certificates in a wide range of subjects. The majority of pupils continue their education post-16 at Weymouth College or Kingston Maurward College.

Westfield is very successful and an "outstanding" special school (see OFSTED Report March 2006). Westfield became a Technology College in 2000 (re-designated in 2004), a Training School in 2003 and a Leading Edge Partnership School in 2004. Westfield achieved the Investor in People standard (for the fourth time) in 2005 and gained the Artsmark gold award in 2006.

Westfield is an innovative special school with a well-deserved national reputation for excellence.

Wyvern School

www.wyvern.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Hoxey
Address: Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5AL
Telephone: (01305) 817917 **Fax:** (01305) 814035
E-mail: office@wyvern.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 2 – 19
Planned places: 70 (excluding the ASD Base)
Caters for: Children with severe, complex or profound and multiple learning difficulties
Geographic areas: Dorchester, Weymouth, Portland, Wareham, & Swanage

General information: Wyvern provides special education for pupils with severe, profound and complex learning difficulties, including autism. The new school building is located on a site shared by a mainstream primary and secondary school. Pupils are generally grouped according to age, and spend up to three years in a class, depending upon specific need and demand for places. Pupils with physical disabilities are fully integrated within the school and enjoy the vibrancy of their more able peer groups. Those with more complex needs and autism benefit from specialist provision.

The school aims to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum within the context of a supportive, caring and stimulating educational environment where pupils can further develop their potential. All pupils have individual educational programmes to support learning in all areas of development, and their Statements of special educational needs are reviewed each year. Pupils' educational experiences are extended into the wider community by means of educational visits and interaction with mainstream schools. Prior to leaving Wyvern, link courses and transition programmes are arranged for students as appropriate. Parents are recognised as important partners in the education process.

The school benefits from the provision of a large support staff team and the regular input of a wide range of professionals including educational psychologist, physiotherapist, speech therapist, occupational therapist, school nurse and doctor.

Yewstock School

www.yewstock.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J Lineton
Address: Honeymead Lane, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1EW
Telephone: (01258) 472796 **Fax:** (01258) 473577
E-mail: office@yewstock.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 2 – 19
Planned places: 113 (excluding the ASD Base)
Caters for: MLD/Complex (significant additional learning needs), severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties
Geographic areas: Blandford, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Sherborne & Sturminster Newton

Characteristics of the school: Yewstock School is a large day special school (Group 5), that serves the educational community in the north of Dorset. The majority of pupils come from Blandford, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Sherborne and, of course, Sturminster Newton. Yewstock also meets the needs of some children from Somerset and Wiltshire.

All of the pupils at Yewstock are designated as having learning difficulties within the range of Profound and Multiple, Severe or Moderate. The school also currently has three specialist classes for children with autism. Many autistic spectrum disordered pupils are also educated within classes in the main body of the school, as their social and communication needs indicate that they are both ready for, and need to be, integrated with their peers of a similar age.

The school makes provision for the 2 – 19 age range, either discretely according to ability, or within 'included' groups that reflect the current national trends towards inclusive schools.

The school is structured in two main departments - primary and secondary. A single class teacher who covers the full subject range mostly teaches children in the nursery class, or within the primary department. All primary age-range teachers are supported, by one or more adults within their classroom.

Within the secondary department a timetable operates similar to that found within mainstream upper schools, where students are taught by a progressively increasing range of teachers according to the pupil's ages and to the demands of the specialist subjects.

There are specialist facilities for the delivery of art and design, design technology (both food and resistant materials/textiles), information and communications technology and science curricula.

A team of teaching assistants is shared by classes within this department, according to need. In addition, some children with very complex needs have the support of an individual additional teaching assistant to act as an 'enabler' to assist the learning process.

The school has many links with schools in the Sturminster Newton 'pyramid' and beyond, through inclusion, vocational and outreach activities.

There are currently 21 teachers, including the Headteacher, with a total staff complement rising to approximately 100, including all the adults in various roles who support the children. All staff regularly receive training through structured professional development programme, which is leading the school towards Investors in People status.

Section 5

Special bases attached to special schools

This section lists the bases attached to special schools in Dorset, gives details of the Headteacher, address of the school, and the type of pupil that the base caters for.

There is also a short section giving some general information about the base and additional information contributed by the school itself.

Further information can be obtained from the school direct, or from the school prospectus. Please telephone the school if you wish to receive a copy of the school prospectus.

The special schools in this section are listed in the following order:

Beaucroft Autism Base
Mountjoy Autism Base
Westfield Autism Base
Wyvern Autism Base
Yewstock Autism Base

Beaucroft Autism Base

www.beaucroft.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr P McGill
Head of Base: Mrs Diane Makariou
Address: Wimborne Road, Colehill, Wimborne, BH21 2SS
Telephone: (01202) 886083 **Fax:** (01202) 848459
E-mail: office@beaucroft.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Foundation **Age range:** 4 – 16
Planned places: 24
Caters for: Children with an autistic spectrum disorder
Geographic areas: Wimborne, Christchurch, Wareham, Swanage, Bournemouth & Poole

General information:

Beaucroft has a discrete ASD department catering specifically for those children whom have autism identified as their primary need. Although separate from the rest of the school, it still is an integral part. Many of the children share classes where appropriate and it provides support to the large number of children with a diagnosis of an ASD, who are educated in the larger part of the school.

The department follows the National Curriculum, but a heavy emphasis is naturally placed upon communication and the development of PHSE and independence skills. A variety of established techniques relating to ASD such as PECS and Intensive Interaction are used to effectively meet the needs of the children.

There is close contact between home and school, with daily communication as the norm and an 'open door' policy, encouraging parents and carers to liaise in all aspects of their child's learning.

Mountjoy Autism Base

www.mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs P Stewart
Address: Flood Lane, Bridport, DT6 3QG
Telephone: (01308) 422250 **Fax:** (01308) 458664
E-mail: office@mountjoy.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 2 – 19
Planned places: 6
Caters for: Children with an autistic spectrum disorder
Geographic areas: Bridport, Lyme Regis, Beaminster, Dorchester

General information: The Autism Base at Mountjoy offers pupils with autistic spectrum disorder a broad and balanced curriculum which is highly structured and supported to enable pupils to succeed.

The curriculum is highly differentiated to meet the individual needs of the pupils. PECS, TEACCH and Teamteach are employed to ensure communication, learning and behaviour strategies are consistent and provide a structured framework in which pupils learn and develop in all areas.

Inclusion is paramount to the pupils' experience in providing positive role models for social, communication and behaviour skills. External agencies support these pupils and their families including speech & language therapy, occupational therapy, aromatherapy, music therapy, and social care.

Westfield Autism Base

www.westfield.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Phil Silvester
Address: Littlemoor Road, Preston, Weymouth, DT3 6AA
Telephone: (01305) 833518 **Fax:** (01305) 835414
E-mail: office@westfield.dorset.sch.uk
Head of Base: Mrs Aisla Maclean-Wood
School status: Foundation **Age range:** 3-16
Planned places: 24
Caters for: Children with an autistic spectrum disorder
Geographic areas: Dorchester, Weymouth, Portland, Wareham, Bovington & Swanage

General information: Westfield's Autism Base is considered an integral part of the college, while making specialist provision for children with autistic spectrum disorders, but whose general learning difficulties may be within the moderate range or slightly

above. There are six classes, which are organised in age-appropriate groups, in purpose-built new classrooms. Each class has five-six pupils, a teacher and at least two-three full-time teaching assistants.

The Autism Base provides:

- a broad, differentiated and relevant curriculum tailored to each individual child's needs
- a sympathetic and motivating environment
- clear structures in terms of the physical environment and individual daily programmes

The Autism Base also:

- promotes parental partnership with open two-way communication and mutual support
- promotes pupils' independence and develops self-advocacy
- participates as fully as possible within the life of the whole school

The Autism Base adopts the National autistic Society's SPELL (Structure, Positive, Empathetic, Low Arousal, Links) approach, drawing upon the best from a range of different approaches to understanding and educating pupils with autism, within a cohesive framework. The curriculum is highly differentiated to meet the individual needs of each pupil. PECS, TEACCH and Teamteach are employed to ensure communication, learning and behaviour strategies are consistent and provide a structured framework in which pupils learn, develop and succeed in all areas.

Inclusion is of paramount importance with the pupils experiencing positive role models for social, communication and behaviour skills. The support of external agencies for these pupils and their families (including Speech and Language Therapy, occupational therapy, paediatricians, and social care) is welcomed and encouraged in order to work towards shared and beneficial outcomes for all.

The Autism Base also i) offers outreach and training opportunities to partner schools and ii) delivers the successful NAS EarlyBird and EarlyBird Plus programmes, based at Westfield (for information on these please contact Alison Crawford, c/o Westfield). The Autism Base is a highly successful provision with a well-deserved regional reputation for excellence (see OfSTED Report March 2006).

Wyvern Autism Base

www.wyvern.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Hoxey
Address: Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5AL
Telephone: (01305) 817917 **Fax:** (01305) 814035
E-mail: office@wyvern.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 2 – 19
Planned places: 16
Caters for: Children with an autistic spectrum disorder
Geographic areas: Dorchester, Weymouth, Portland, Wareham, & Swanage

General information: Wyvern's Autism Base offers pupils with autistic spectrum disorders, as well as severe learning difficulties, a carefully structured and supportive environment, delivered by a team of experienced and dedicated teachers and teaching assistants.

A highly individualised curriculum is offered which is designed to meet communication, social and behavioural needs, as well as all relevant aspects of the National Curriculum. A wide range of strategies is employed, in particular PECS for communication and TEACCH, which helps to provide a framework of structure and predictability.

Pupils are included both within the school with their peers, and in the wider community as much as possible. In addition, support is provided by outside agencies and professionals, including occupational therapy, speech therapy and aromatherapy.

Yewstock Autism Base

www.yewstock.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J Lineton
Address: Honeymead Lane, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, DT10 1EW
Telephone: (01258) 472796 **Fax:** (01258) 473577
E-mail: office@yewstock.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 2 – 19
Planned places: 16
Caters for: Children with an autistic spectrum disorder
Geographic areas: Blandford, Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Sherborne & Sturminster Newton

General information: To enable the needs of pupils with an autistic spectrum disorder to be better met, these pupils receive a high level of support from a teacher and teaching assistants qualified and/or experienced in working with pupils with special educational needs.

The curriculum offers a very individualised approach to meet communication and behaviour needs. A range of teaching strategies are used, including TEACCH, within a tightly structured day. Teaching takes place both in and out of school to enable the pupils to cope with and make sense of the world around them. Pupils receive additional support from visiting professionals including the speech therapist.

Section 6

Special bases attached to mainstream schools

Dorset's bases are able to provide access to the curriculum with the aim of inclusion in the classroom. The main features are:

- providing facilities for inclusive and integrated work with mainstream classes that makes eventual transfer easier for pupils
- providing specialist support that avoids special school placement
- addressing the causes rather than the effect of learning difficulties for example, where pupils with speech and language difficulties may exhibit behavioural problems
- meeting the spirit of 'Every Child Matters', 'Raising Levels of Achievement' and new visions for children's services.

This section lists the bases attached to mainstream schools in Dorset, gives details of the Headteacher, address of the school, and the type of pupil that the base caters for.

There is also a short section giving some general information about the base and additional information provided by the base itself. Further information can be obtained from the school direct, or from the school prospectus. Please telephone the school if you wish to receive a copy of the school prospectus.

The mainstream bases in this section are listed in the following order:

Moderate Learning Difficulty Bases (caters for MLD/Complex - pupils with significant additional learning needs):

St Mary's Primary MLD Base
Beaminster Technology College Secondary MLD Base

Speech & Language Difficulty Bases:

Christchurch Infant Speech & Language Base
Christchurch Junior Speech & Language Base
Twyham Secondary Speech & Language Base
Damers First Speech & Language Base
Dorchester Middle Speech & Language Base
The Thomas Hardy Secondary Speech & Language Base
Gillingham Primary Speech & Language Base

Dyslexia Bases:

All Saints Secondary Dyslexia Base
Allenbourn Middle Dyslexia Base
The Gryphon Secondary Dyslexia Base
The Blandford School Secondary Dyslexia Base

Physical Difficulties Base:

Prince of Wales First Base

Behaviour, Emotional & Social Difficulties Base:

Bincombe Valley Primary BESD Base

Asperger's Base:

Budmouth Technology College Asperger's Base

St Mary's Primary MLD Base

www.stmarysbeaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs R Yates
Teacher in Charge: Mrs D Ellis
Address: Clay Lane, Beaminster, DT8 3BY
Telephone: (01308) 862201
E-mail: office@stmarysbeaminster.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 7 - 11
Planned places: 20
Caters for: MLD/Complex (pupils with significant additional learning needs)
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: This well-established base operates within a supportive primary school and combines specialist teaching and a high staff/pupil ratio. It is a model for effective two-way inclusion with the main school.

The curriculum is taught at a level and pace appropriate to the children's complex learning needs, with an emphasis on basic literacy, numeracy and social skills. Learning experiences and tasks also take the children's age, interests and maturity into account. Strengths are built upon and difficulties are addressed through group work and individual learning programmes. The children are encouraged to take part in a wide variety of activities, visits and residential trips.

The base aims to provide an atmosphere where children feel secure and motivated, and where expected standards of behaviour are made clear. The staff work hard to develop each child's self-esteem and their understanding of trust, respect and consideration for each other's points of view. Staff aim, above all, to allow the children in the base to develop confidence in themselves and a desire to learn.

Where appropriate, the children transfer to the secondary provision for pupils with moderate learning difficulties at Beaminster School.

Beaminster Technology College MLD Base

www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr M Best
Teacher in Charge: Ms A Ebborn
Address: Newtown, Beaminster, DT8 3EP
Telephone: (01308) 862633 **Fax:** (01308) 863929
E-mail: office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 11–16
Planned places: 34
Caters for: MLD/Complex (pupils with significant additional learning needs)
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: The base operates as part of the mainstream school and combines specialist teaching and a high staff/pupil ratio with a wide range of opportunities for inclusion in mainstream classes. All pupils in the base are in mainstream tutor groups where they start each morning. During the week they have access to the full National Curriculum which is taught at a level and pace appropriate to each pupil's ability. Mostly this is in small specialist groups but Key Stage 3 drama, technology, PE and music are learned alongside mainstream pupils to allow access to the school's excellent facilities. Teaching assistants are available to support pupils from the base when they are in larger groups. In addition to the National Curriculum the base also continues regular teaching sessions to develop pupils' basic literacy, numeracy and social skills and offer integrated learning programmes.

The base is able to be very flexible in order to meet individual needs. At Key Stage 4 a broad range of Certificate of Achievement courses is offered, some taught in small specialist groups and others in slightly bigger groups with mainstream pupils (15). Whenever appropriate, pupils in the base follow some full GCSE courses. The base also offers the Youth Award Scheme at Key Stage 4.

There are strong links with the local Colleges of Further Education to which most of the pupils progress at 16+. The base works closely with Connexions to plan for pupils' smooth transition to college, training or work.

Staff are dedicated to supporting pupils to develop confidence and self-esteem within a caring and protective environment. Every pupil in the base is allocated a Personal Support Mentor who maintains a special interest in their attached pupil and works with them to review and set targets.

Pupils are encouraged to take some responsibility for their learning and behaviour and move towards independence and self-reliance wherever possible.

The school places great emphasis on a positive ongoing partnership with parents and other professionals working with our young people. Parents are expected to attend the annual Statement Review and to work with the school in supporting their children's learning and behaviour.

Christchurch Infant Speech & Language Base

www.christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Ashenden
Address: Addiscombe Road, Christchurch, BH23 2AE
Telephone: (01202) 485851 **Fax:** (01202) 479149
E-mail: office@christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 4 - 7
Planned places: 16
Caters for: Children with severe and complex speech and language disorders
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: The school provides specialist teaching and intensive therapy for children with severe speech and language disorders. The children are offered a structured learning programme matched to their academic, social and emotional needs. The school aims to enable children to access the mainstream curriculum and provides opportunities for them to integrate with mainstream pupils during play and some classroom activities. Whenever possible, children return to their local mainstream schools, when sufficient progress has been made.

The base classes are very much part of Christchurch Infant School, and are staffed by three teachers, a full time speech therapist and support staff. Both parents and staff work closely together to support the children's learning.

Christchurch Junior Speech & Language Base

www.christchurchjun.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs A Smith
Teacher in Charge: Miss Gillian Foster
Address: Clarendon Road, Christchurch, BH23 2AA
Telephone: (01202) 409653 (Base) or (01202) 485579 (School)
E-mail: office@christchurchjun.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 7 - 11
Planned places: 16
Caters for: Children with severe and complex speech and language disorders
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: Christchurch Junior School Speech and Language Base is designed to support and develop children's communication, literacy and social skills within small groups, whilst also enabling them to access the National Curriculum within the mainstream.

The children's individual needs are targeted through an enriched and diverse curriculum. Base literacy sessions are planned and taught jointly by a teacher and speech and language therapist applying a multi-sensory approach. Mainstream lessons are supported and differentiated by a highly motivated and enthusiastic team.

The base promotes self-esteem, confidence and opportunities for its children to express themselves. Pupils are encouraged to develop as individuals and widen their social experiences and friendships. Several of the base pupils regularly attend the lunchtime and after school clubs; pupils also enjoy taking part in residential visits.

Twynham Secondary Speech & Language Base

www.twynham.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr T Fish
Teacher in Charge: Mrs M Parry
Address: Twynham School, Sopers Lane, Christchurch, BH23 1JF
Telephone: (01202) 486237
E-mail: office@twynham.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 11 – 16
Planned places: 10
Caters for: Children with severe and complex language disorders
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: Students are first and foremost students of Twynham School who are also allocated time in the Speech and Language Base for specialist teaching in small groups and for specialist speech and language therapy sessions. They are placed in tutor groups with their peers, attend registration with them and are fully included in all aspects of school life.

They attend the majority of lessons with their peers and receive in-class support as needed. They are expected to attend some lessons without support to increase their independence, usually in art, drama, music and PE. English and French lessons are provided in the base and most students also receive withdrawal support to help with literacy difficulties.

Speech and language therapy is provided two/three times weekly in both group and individual sessions. Groups consist of a mixture of base and mainstream students. The speech and language therapist also makes visits to mainstream classes to see students working with their peers and to advise staff. Speaking and listening plans are devised by the therapist and student together to identify suitable targets to work on during mainstream lessons with the help of support staff and teachers. Individual vocabulary books are also used to enable students to understand and recall National Curriculum vocabulary.

Damers First Speech & Language Base

www.damers.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr P Minns
Speech & Language Co-ordinator: Mrs Val Swan
Address: Damers First School, Damers Road, Dorchester, DT1 2LB
Telephone: (01305) 264924
E-mail: office@damers.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained
Age range: 4 - 9
Planned places: 18
Caters for: Children with severe and complex speech and language disorders
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: Children who are placed within the specialist provision at Damers are recognised as full members of our school community. They will be placed within a smaller 'inclusive' class alongside children of the same age. This means that they share the whole classroom experience while benefiting from additional and specialist support.

Teachers, teaching assistants and speech therapists work closely to support the children in their learning throughout the week. Each child has a named therapist to oversee his/her programme of support. Therapists work both within and outside the classroom to best meet the needs of the children.

The aim of this provision is to enable the child to return to their local mainstream school with the skills and confidence necessary to learn successfully. Staff liaise with the child's local school to facilitate a smooth transition and offer outreach support as appropriate.

Dorchester Middle Speech & Language Base

www.dorchestermid.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr G Redley
Teacher in Charge: Miss J Rathmell
Address: Queens Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 2HS
Telephone: (01305) 265651
E-mail: office@dorchestermid.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 9 - 13
Planned places: 9
Caters for: Children with severe and complex speech and language disorders
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: Students within the base are first and foremost students of Dorchester Middle School. The aims of the base are to remediate the pupil's speech and language disorder to enable them to gain independent access to as much of the mainstream curriculum as possible.

All staff working with the pupils, including base and mainstream teachers, speech & language therapist and classroom assistants collaborate to design programmes to meet the individual pupil's needs. The support is provided both in the base and within the mainstream classroom as appropriate. It is delivered in individual, small groups and whole class settings.

The base is a resource for all staff for advice on strategies and materials for language teaching across the curriculum. Regular contact is maintained with parents and other professional agencies.

The Thomas Hardy Speech & Language Base

www.thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr I Melvin
Teacher in Charge: Mrs I Allan
Address: Queens Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 2ET
Telephone: (01305) 266064
E-mail: office@thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 13 – 16
Planned places: 9
Caters for: Children with severe and complex speech and language disorders
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: The Speech and Language Base is an integral part of the Special Needs Department at The Thomas Hardy School which is collectively known as Education Extra.

All staff are committed to the inclusive support of students as part of the whole school. Students have the benefit of both specialist teaching and the support of a speech and language therapist. Individual support is timetabled according to curriculum requirements. Students have access to high levels of support from a team of teaching assistants in order to help them access the curriculum. Individual and small group support is provided to help the development of communication and social skills, develop literacy skills and provide differentiated support of curriculum tasks.

High value is placed on liaison with teaching staff, teaching assistants and outside professionals to ensure flexibility and differentiation to suit students' needs.

Gillingham Primary Speech & Language Base

www.gillinghampri.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Sian Thornton
Teacher in Charge: Mrs Helen Sills
Address: School Road, Gillingham, SP8 4QR
Telephone: (01747) 834914 for KS1 Base or (01747) 834913 for KS2 Base.
E-mail: office@gillinghampri.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained. **Age range:** 4 - 11
Planned places: 16 (8 in each base)
Caters for: Children with severe and complex speech and language disorders
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: The children in the base are given access to a broad and balanced curriculum in the base and mainstream. Work is aimed towards helping the children's communication difficulties in a wide range of curriculum areas as well as monitoring their academic progress and social skills.

The children in each base are included in lessons with mainstream classes. The number of these activities depends on the child's individual progress, confidence and social skills. Support by base staff is given as appropriate. Groups of mainstream children also work in the base classrooms for specific activities. The children also attend class/year/group and whole school assemblies.

The speech and language therapist in each base organises language groups which target listening, comprehension, expression, word finding skills and social communication. Mainstream children often join these groups and advice is given to teachers and teaching assistants.

All Saints Secondary Dyslexia Base

www.allsaints.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr T Balmforth
Teacher in Charge: Mrs P James
Address: Sunnyside Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth, DT4 9BY
Telephone: (01305) 783391
E-mail: office@allsaints.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 11 – 16
Planned places: 10
Caters for: Pupils with specific learning difficulties
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

Organisation: The base is located within the mainstream school, which has a full inclusion policy. To obtain a place within the base, names of pupils are put forward to the Dyslexia Base Admissions Advisory Panel via the Educational Psychologist or SENSS.

From when they start at the school, pupils are placed within a mainstream tutor group, and for the majority of their time, are educated alongside their peers within the 'normal' mainstream curriculum lessons. However, for a certain amount of time, depending on each individual's needs, they attend lessons in the base from specialist teachers on a one-to-one or small group basis. Each individual pupil will follow a specialist multi-sensory teaching programme specific to his or her needs. Further support is also available within mainstream classes.

There is close liaison between the base and each school department; special 'named' link teachers keep the base staff information regarding developments and policy changes within each subject area.

The base is fully equipped with specific equipment and resources relevant to the needs of the individual. The resources include such items as up-to-date desktop and notebook computers along with a variety of specialist multi-sensory programmes.

Pupils within the base are fully inclusive within the school, following all or the majority of the curriculum, having the opportunity to join in all school internal and extra curricular activities and having equal opportunities to their peers. The ultimate aim of the base is to provide each individual pupil with a programme of study and support, which will enable them to develop coping strategies and self-esteem to become confident, independent learners.

Allenbourn Middle Dyslexia Base

www.allenbourn.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr G MacRae
Teacher in Charge: Mrs E Nation
Address: Allenbourn Middle School, East Borough, Wimborne, BH21 1PL
Telephone: (01202) 886738
E-mail: office@allenbourn.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Community **Age range:** 9 – 13
Planned places: 10
Caters for: Pupils with specific learning difficulties
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: The Dyslexia Base is part of Allenbourn Middle School and has well equipped, purpose-built accommodation centrally situated in the school. All pupils in the base are members of a class and fully integrated in the life of the school. They have most of their lessons alongside their peers in the classroom, with support from a teaching assistant in all main subjects. Pupils are withdrawn from the classroom, in small groups or individually, to work on literacy and their individual programmes with a specialist teacher on a regular basis, according to need. Pupils

also take part in the Touch-Type Read and Spell computer programme which was written for dyslexic children.

The base provides a very high level of support for pupils, who attend daily pre-school session for reading and spelling activities and Homework Club at least twice a week after school. Help is also given with organisation, recording and checking homework and providing equipment and resources as necessary.

Encouragement, respect, praise for effort and achievements and sensitivity to individual needs all form a vital part of the support given to enable these pupils to regain their self-esteem and promote confidence in their ability to learn. The Teacher in Charge of the base attends weekly meetings with staff from each year group, liaises closely with class tutors and teaching assistants and maintains strong links with parents and outside agencies.

The Gryphon Secondary Dyslexia Base

www.gryphon.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Hillier
Teacher in Charge: Mrs L Elsworth
Address: Bristol Road, Sherborne, DT9 4EQ
Telephone: (01935) 813122 Ext: 239 **Fax:** (01935) 816992
E-mail: office@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 11 - 16
Planned places: 20
Caters for: Pupils with specific learning difficulties
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: The base is managed by the School's SEN Co-ordinator with a Dyslexia Base Co-ordinator who co-ordinates the learning programmes of the students with six other qualified tutors.

The base is an integral part of the school, providing individual programmes of work coupled with in-class support to ensure access to a broad curriculum. Class support is provided by teaching assistants and there are subject-specific teaching assistants in maths, science and IT.

Dyslexia tutors manage all specific assessment, programme devising and teaching in the Learning Support/Dyslexia Base. Programmes require a highly structured cumulative multi-sensory approach and draw on the wide range of resources which are available to all SEN students. The team's expertise is also used as a form of inreach/outreach work with primary feeder schools.

The Blandford School Secondary Dyslexia Base

www.blandford.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs S Wilson
Teacher in Charge: Mrs A Hird
Address: Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, DT11 7SQ
Telephone: (01258) 451121
E-mail: office@blandford.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 13 - 16
Planned places: 9
Caters for: Pupils with specific learning difficulties
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: This is a nine-place base catering for students between the ages of 13 – 16 where their primary need is specific learning difficulties.

Students are fully integrated into all aspects of school life. In addition to following the mainstream curriculum, students in the base receive specialist teaching on a one- to-one basis or in small groups and have specialist support in key lessons. Teachers in the school are aware of the difficulties which dyslexic students face and the school has actively promoted strategies to create a 'dyslexia-friendly' school.

The Prince of Wales First Base

www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr P Farrington
Address: Maiden Castle Road, Dorchester, DT1 2HH
Telephone: (01305) 257120
E-Mail: office@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk
School Status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 2.5 - 9
Planned places: 20
Caters for: Children with physical disabilities
Nursery Base or other Base attached: Assessment Nursery Base 2.5 - 5 years
Geographic areas: Whole of the county of Dorset

General information: The base provides a complete education for physically disabled children with teachers and teaching assistants working closely with physiotherapists, speech therapists and occupational therapists. Full inclusion opportunities are offered with mainstream children at the school and attached pre-school, according to individual need.

The resources include hydrotherapy pool, sensory rooms, physiotherapy room, soft play room, play rooms, aided communication devices and mobility aids. The base aims to work as closely as possible with parents.

Assessment Base: There is an Assessment Base for pre-school age pupils with special educational needs attached to The Prince of Wales Base. This caters for children from ages two and a half. Admission to the Assessment Base is through the usual Admissions Panel.

Bincombe Valley Primary BESD Base

(Behaviour, Emotional & Social Development)

www.bincombe.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr L Strong
Teacher in Charge: Mrs Frances Guppy
Address: Culliford Way, Littlemoor, Weymouth, DT3 6AF
Telephone: (01305) 833958 **Fax:** (01305) 835750
E-mail: office@bincombe.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 5 - 11
Planned places: 9
Caters for: Children with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties.
Geographic areas: School catchment area plus children from neighbouring towns and villages

General information: This base caters for nine primary-aged pupils who have needs requiring emotional, behavioural and social development so that they get the best out of their schooling.

It is a well-staffed base and is an integral part of the primary school, to which it is attached. The underlying ethos is based within nurture group principles. A programme of development takes place with the aim of pupils developing the skills they need to work well within a classroom context. The base works closely with the school in integrating pupils back into mainstream classes. The base pupils are included in activity linked to the curriculum all other pupils enjoy. The aim is that pupils attending the base will develop the skills to enable them to return to their own school community at a later date.

Budmouth Technology College Asperger's Base

www.budmouth.dorset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr D Akers
Teacher in Charge: Mr P McCarthy
Address: Chickerell Road, Weymouth, DT4 9SY
Telephone: (01305) 830552 **Fax:** (01305) 830555
E-mail: mccarthyp@budmouth.dorset.sch.uk
School status: Local authority maintained **Age range:** 11 - 16
Planned places: 10
Caters for: Children with Asperger's Syndrome
Geographic areas: Whole of the county of Dorset

General information: The Asperger's Base supports inclusion of Asperger's students in the mainstream curriculum and provides specialised language and social skills training. The long-term aims of the base are to provide the students with the skills and strategies to access the curriculum successfully, and to function as independent individuals.

The base is located within the Learning Support area and is staffed before school, at break and at lunch to provide a secure and controlled environment where acceptable behaviours are reinforced positively, self-esteem issues are addressed and friendship skills are supported.

Base staffing consists of two teachers and five teaching assistants. Teaching assistant time is used to support students in mainstream lessons. Teachers support in lessons, conduct one-to-one pastoral/curriculum support sessions with students and run group sessions to develop social skills and social language; group sessions are supported by speech and language therapist input. A series of local, national and international trips are being developed to improve the life experiences of our students.

The base encourages regular communication with parents. The progress of each student is viewed as a collaborative effort between home and school.

Section 7

Learning Centres

The Children Out of School Service (COOSS) provides educational support and provision for children who are not attending school. These include:

- pupils permanently excluded from school and those receiving fixed-term exclusions of more than 15 days
- pregnant schoolgirls and schoolgirl mothers
- anxious/vulnerable pupils
- school refusers, phobics and young carers
- pupils unable to attend school because of medical reasons
- pupils moving into the local authority area unable to find a school place
- children who because of entering public care or moving placement require a change of school and are unable to access a school place
- pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN) whose placements are not yet agreed; and pupils awaiting assessment of SEN
- asylum seekers and refugees who have no school place

In addition support is provided for pupils at risk of exclusion from school, through dual registration.

In Dorset, COOSS is organised into five Learning Zones, each managed by a Zone Manager. In each Learning Zone there is a Learning Centre (Pupil Referral Unit). The Zone Manager is responsible for the day to day operation of the centre.

The service is accountable to the COOSS Management Committee which has representatives from a wide range of organisations including schools, FE colleges, Connexions, social care and health services, Youth Offending Team, elected members and parent representatives. Each zone has a 'Friends of Zone' group which provides local accountability and reports to the management committee.

Christchurch Learning Centre

29 Stour Road Mrs P Pyke
Christchurch (01202) 471410
BH23 1PJ

The Compass Centre

Top Floor Mr A Wood
48 Lynch Lane (01305) 206530
Weymouth
DT4 9DN

Dorchester Learning Centre

The Old Rectory Mr J Taylor
Dorchester (01305) 261213
DT2 9PS

Wimborne Learning Centre

School Lane Mrs K Rickford
Wimborne 01202 886947
BH21 1HQ

Sherborne Learning Centre

Simons Road Mr I Hedley
Sherborne (01935) 814582
DT9 4DN

Section 8

Education of sick children

The Children's Hospital Unit, Dorset County Hospital

The Children's Education Unit is situated on the Paediatric Ward at Dorset County Hospital. It caters for all school-age (4 – 16 yrs) children who are patients in hospital or who regularly attend the ward.

All paediatric patients who are considered medically well enough are encouraged to attend the school room as part of the ward's daily routine from 9am to 12 noon, term times only. Some children may, for medical reasons, have tuition or educational activities at their bedside.

The purpose-built school room has a wide range of facilities, equipment and resources including a kitchen area, television, sewing machine and computers with internet connections and telephone/fax communications. The unit offers the core curriculum and access to most of the National Curriculum subjects.

A teaching assistant is employed to support the Teacher in Charge.

The Children's Hospital Unit

Children's Education Unit (School Room)
Kingfisher Ward
Dorset County Hospital
Williams Avenue
Dorchester
DT1 2JY

Teacher in Charge: Mrs H Finbow
Teaching Assistant: Mrs C Motteram
Tel/Fax: 01305 254287
E-mail: school.room@wdgh.nhs.uk

Section 9

Bournemouth & Poole special schools

Bicknell School – Petersfield Road, Bournemouth, BH7 6PQ

E-mail: Bicknell.Headteacher@bournemouth.gov.uk

Headteacher: Mr B Hooper **Age range** – 8-16

Tel: (01202) 424361

Caters for emotional & behavioural difficulties

Linwood School & Autistic Base – Alma Road, Bournemouth, BH9 1AJ

Website: www.linwoodschool.bournemouth.sch.uk

E-mail: linwood@bournemouth.gov.uk

Headteacher – Mr S Brown **Age range** – 3-18

Tel: (01202) 525107

Caters for moderate & severe learning difficulties

Autistic Base opened September 2002 and caters for Foundation / Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Longspee School – Learoyd Road, Canford Heath, Poole, BH17 8PJ

E-mail: longspeeschool@poole.gov.uk

Headteacher: Mr C Fisher (Acting)

Age range: 3-13

Tel: (01202) 380266

Caters for emotional & behavioural difficulties

Montacute School – 3 Canford Heath Road, Poole, BH17 7NG

E-mail: office@montacute.poole.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs M Sammons

Age range: 3-18

Tel: (01202) 693239

Caters for severe learning difficulties

Winchelsea School – Guernsey Road, Parkstone, Poole, BH12 4LL

Website: www.winchelsea.poole.sch.uk

E-mail: winchelseaschool@poole.gov.uk

Headteacher: Mr G Moore (Acting)

Age range – 3-16

Tel: (01202) 746240

Caters for moderate learning difficulties

Section 10

Useful references for parents and carers

Inclusion Strategy, March 2004

SEN Funding for Inclusion Booklet Five "Guidelines on Admissions to and Exit from Special Schools and Bases," April 2005.

"Special Schools/Bases Admission Panels: Information for Parents/Carers" leaflet, June 2005.

"Transport for children attending Special Schools and Bases: A guide for parents and carers", April 2005.

"Funding for inclusion: Information on Funding for Children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in mainstream Schools", April 2005.

For further information please visit www.dorsetforyou.com/educ/sen - please use the link to SEN Caseworker Team. Hard copies of our leaflets can be obtained by contacting the SEN Team on: (01305) 224888.

Parent Partnership leaflets:

Various communication leaflets for parents and schools

For further information please visit www.dorsetforyou.com - please use the link to learning, parents & pupils, Special Education, Parent Partnership, advice.

Copies of the Parent Partnership leaflets can be obtained from the SEN Team, Dorset County Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ
Tel. (01305) 224888

A booklet is available for parents and carers about the Psychology Service:

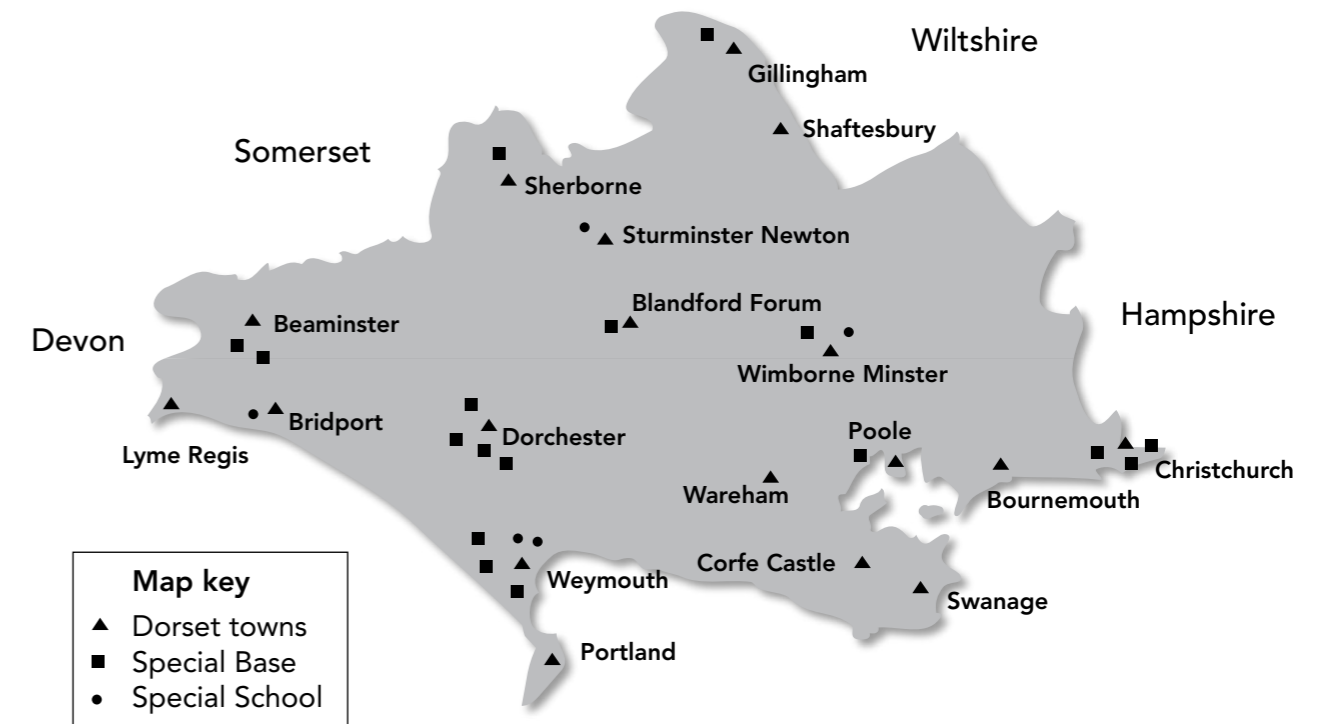
"Educational Psychologists Information for parents and carers", August 2004.

This can be found at www.dorsetforyou.com/educ/sen - please use the link to SEN Caseworker Team, related articles- psychological service. Hard copies of this leaflet can be obtained by contacting:

East Area: (01202) 870130

West Area: (01305) 851300

The county of Dorset



Beaminster Area

- St. Mary's Primary MLD Base
- Beaminster Technology College MLD Base

Blandford Area

- Blandford School Dyslexia Base

Bridport Area

- Mountjoy School

Christchurch Area

- Christchurch Infants Speech & Language Base
- Christchurch Junior Speech & Language Base
- Twynham Speech & Language Base

Dorchester Area

- Prince of Wales First Physical Difficulties Base
- Damers First Speech & Language Base
- Dorchester Middle Speech & Language Base
- Thomas Hardy Secondary Speech & Language Base

Gillingham Area

- Gillingham Primary Speech & Language Base

Sherborne Area

- The Gryphon Secondary Dyslexia Base

Sturminster Newton Area

- Yewstock School

Weymouth Area

- Bincombe Valley EBD Base
- All Saints Secondary Dyslexia Base
- Budmouth Technology College Asperger's Base
- Wyvern School
- Westfield Technology College

Wimborne Area

- Allenbourn Middle Dyslexia Base
- Beacroft School

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All leaflets can be made available in audio tape/CD, large print, Braille or alternative formats or languages on request.

Please contact the Parent Partnership Officer - see page 8 for contact details - if you require an alternative format or language.

