



**Prospectus 2015 - 2016**

# Welcome to Dorchester Primary School



**Deborah Damestani**  
Headteacher

*At Dorchester we offer a vibrant, exciting learning environment through a creative curriculum.*

*We work hard to allow the children to achieve their personal best and develop a life time love of learning.*

Dorchester Primary prides itself on providing good teaching and learning across the school.

We are a three-form entry Primary with a 52 place Nursery catering for 26 children in the morning and 26 children in the afternoon.

Our school community is committed to do the best for the children in our care and work in partnership with parents.

If you are considering sending your child to Dorchester please book an appointment to come and have a look around.

I look forward to meeting you.



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*Dorchester Primary School is a co-educational school within the London Borough of Sutton, catering for children aged three to eleven.*

### Mission statement

Our motto is: 'Achieving Excellence Together in a Caring Community'.

### Our vision is:

- High quality teaching and learning
- Stimulating, caring environment
- Good communication
- Strong partnership
- Continuous improvement
- Having fun and feeling good

### Aims and ethos

The governors and staff at Dorchester Primary School are fully committed to providing a friendly, secure environment where children are encouraged to develop their potential. We strive for each child to learn academic and social skills to help them become happy, independent and motivated people for today and tomorrow.

The school works in close partnership with parents and carers, through a signed agreement, open communication and shared aims to provide the best education for your children.

### Together we aim to achieve:

- High standards of education.
- Access to the full range of education regardless of race, ability, gender or religious beliefs.
- A partnership between staff, parents and the community to enable the children to play a positive role in society.
- A caring and supportive environment in which all children can reach their full potential, enjoy success and, in doing so, form a positive self-image and a sense of self-worth.

### Governors

The school is served by an enthusiastic and committed Governing Body. They are hardworking and offer support, challenge and skills to help lead the school.





# About our school

## Starting school

Children start in the Nursery Class in the academic year when they will be three years old.

Admission to the Reception Class is in September of each year.

Children have to be four years old by 31st August to be considered for entry to the Reception Class.

We hold meetings for prospective parents. You will automatically be invited to these meetings if you are offered a place.

The admission criteria can be obtained from the school office. All applications are made on line via the London Borough of Sutton Website. The website address is: [www.sutton.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.sutton.gov.uk/admissions)

## School organisation

Dorchester is a three-form entry school and our aim is to keep all classes to 30 or less and to have separate classes for each year group. All classes are mixed ability and children are set differentiated work to meet their individual needs. Children might be set on the basis of ability for certain subjects. This is reviewed regularly. The teacher has the main responsibility for their class but are supported by the senior leadership team and support staff. During the school day there may be occasions when a child works with another specialist teacher for example in Music, PE or for a Modern Foreign Language. We believe that this flexibility maximises the expertise of our staff and provides the most effective curriculum for your child.





## School times

### Nursery

**Morning session:**

8.30 am until 11.30am

**Afternoon session:**

12.15pm until 3.15pm

All children in the Nursery attend either the morning or the afternoon session.

### Key Stage 1

**Morning session:**

8.50am until 12.00pm

**Afternoon session:**

1.10pm until 3.05pm

### Key Stage 2

**Morning session:**

8.45am until 12.15pm

**Afternoon session:**

1.10pm until 3.15pm

Staff supervise the children in the school grounds from 8.30am and up to 3.25pm or longer if they are attending out-of-hours activities or special arrangements have been made. Children under seven must be brought to school and collected at the end of the

day by a responsible adult. Once the entrance gate is opened the children can go to the playground or directly to their classrooms.

### School meals

The school offers Universal Free School Meals for all children in Reception, Years 1 and 2.

We are a healthy school! Children can choose to have a cooked meal or bring in a packed lunch. School meals offer good value for money and provide a healthy, balanced diet. There is always a choice of menu, including salads and a vegetarian dish, and special diets can be catered for.

Packed lunches should also be nutritionally well balanced with healthy sandwiches, fruit and water. (Sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks should not be part of the lunch).

If applicable school meals must be paid for in advance, either weekly (on a Monday), half-termly or termly through SIMS Agora. The current price is to be found on the school website. If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please speak to a member of the school office.

## Keeping you informed

There is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with his or her class teacher each term. During the autumn term you will be asked to visit the school to discuss and agree targets for each core subject that we have set for your child for the year. These targets are reviewed in the spring term with an opportunity to look through your child's work. At the end of each summer term you will receive a full report summarising your child's achievements during the year.

Each child is given a Home School Diary which can be used to communicate with the school.

We produce a regular newsletter to keep you up-to-date with school news and developments and a parents' notice board provides a further source of information.

[www.dorchesterprimary.com](http://www.dorchesterprimary.com) is our website and has a wealth of information, including our school calendar to keep you up-to-date with events. All letters are sent through email. You can also follow us on Facebook or Twitter @DorchesterP

## Transfer to other schools

At the end of Year 6, pupils transfer to

a secondary school. Many pupils go to Cheam High and other local secondary schools. A number of children move on to Grammar Schools.

The process requires you to make an application and you are encouraged to visit the local schools before deciding on your choices.

You may appeal if your child does not get the place of your choice. Information about secondary schools is provided in the summer and autumn term of year 6.

## Behaviour

Our emphasis is on rewarding positive behavior.

We expect children to follow the Golden Rules at all times:

- Do be gentle
- Do listen
- Do be honest
- Do be kind and helpful
- Do work hard
- Do look after property

We work in partnership with parents to promote these expectations.

## Punctuality & attendance

Learning starts as soon as the children enter the school from 8.45 each morning. To ensure your children have the best opportunities it is essential that they arrive on time each day.

If your child is absent from school for any reason you must provide us with an adequate explanation by phone, followed by a written note. Otherwise the absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'. We are required to publish details of unauthorised absences and this reflects on the school.

Absences for reasons other than illness are not normally permitted except in very special circumstances which must be authorised by the Head teacher. Please do not take holidays during school time as they can be subject to a fine.

## Health & welfare

During a child's first year at school your child is offered a general health test carried out by the school nurse. This includes height and weight measurements. It is vital that parents fill in and

return to us the 'contact' form, which provides us with an up-to-date home address and telephone number and also details of where they can be contacted when at work. You should also nominate someone else as a contact if there are times when you are unavailable.

The school has a number of First Aiders on site to deal with minor injuries.

## Medicines

If your child has been prescribed medicine that needs to be taken during the school day (4 times a day), you will need to complete the required form. The medicine needs to be clearly labelled and dropped off at the school office.

Detailed medical forms must be completed for children with asthma, diabetes, epilepsy or other medical conditions and a health care plan will be set up if necessary.



### School uniform

The school colours are purple, grey and white and most of the garments can be purchased from 'School Wear Inc' or 'Mapac' who use our logo.

Jewellery, such as rings, necklaces and bracelets, should not be worn to school. If your child has pierced ears, please use small, smooth studs. We request this in the interest of your child's safety. During PE, earrings will be taped over. Children should not wear nail varnish, make up or any elaborate hair accessories.

Flat comfortable black shoes must be worn to allow your child to play free and safely in the school.

PE kit: black shorts, purple tee-shirt and plimsolls/trainers. A black tracksuit can be worn in the colder weather.

### Safety in and out of school

Our school is situated on a busy, congested road, so it is essential that children learn from an early age to observe the correct safety rules when they are coming to and from school.

Always use the pedestrian gates. Never walk through the two gates for vehicular access only. Never walk across the car park. Always cross the road at the school crossing patrol.

### School trips

To promote learning the children go on a variety of school visits. These include historical and environmental places of interest. These trips really bring learning alive in a hands on approach.



## Healthy lunches





# The curriculum

*At Dorchester we teach a curriculum that is exciting, fun and imaginative. Walk into any of our classrooms and you will find a vibrant environment with children engaged in thinking, questioning and learning.*

## Early years – Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS)

We want your child's first experience of school to be a happy one and we rely a great deal on your help in settling your child at Dorchester. Before a child starts the school there are opportunities for you to visit with your child to meet and talk with both children and teachers. The children have a staggered start to ensure they are comfortable in their surroundings before joining a full classroom.

The EYFS Curriculum is a Learning Journey which begins

with a baseline assessment to see where your child is starting from.

The learning then focuses on the seven areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

The indoor and outdoor areas encourage the children to learn and develop through a stimulating, fun and highly imaginative environment.

Core skills of communication, reading and writing are at the forefront of the teaching.

Please note that transfer from our Nursery Class to the Reception Class is not automatic. Parents will need to re-apply to the Sutton Local Education Authority.

*Our aim is to provide a broad and balanced National Curriculum.*

We make the curriculum as real as possible through visits, hands on learning, research and cross curricular links.

Children are taught key learning skills to become a good learner:

- Listen well
- Work hard
- Concentrate
- Explore
- Work with and support others
- Mistakes are ok
- Try your best



# Colourful classrooms





## English

At Dorchester we believe Literacy is a key life skill. We recognise that language is the basis of all learning in the Primary Curriculum and accesses a vast world of interest and information, opening doors to other curriculum areas. As parents you can become involved with your child's learning by sharing books, reading with and listening to your child read each day.

The key reading and writing skills start in Nursery and Reception learning phonics - letter names and sounds. This is taught daily across the school and later becomes spelling and grammar for the older children.

## Speaking and listening

Speaking and listening skills are promoted across the curriculum through drama, assemblies, presentations, show and tell, group and partner work, as well as daily conversations, engaging a variety of audiences.

## Reading

Children read daily as part of a lesson, quietly on their own or as a class. The school has a reading scheme to help the children progress through bands as well as a library to offer a wider range of texts.

## Writing

The pupils are taught to write effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences. They are taught how to structure and organise their writing and to use punctuation accurately. Their handwriting is practiced in order to develop a fluent and joined script and spelling is developed through investigating word patterns and families. Teachers are always looking for imaginative and exciting ways to promote writing and stimulate the children's imagination.

## Maths

Maths is taught daily and covers number, measurement, and geometry initially and then statistics, ratio and proportion and algebra as the children get older. The lessons allow the children to explore the processes and relate the subject to real life problems. Mental maths skills and written methods form a key part of the teaching and learning. The children are set in maths across year groups from Year 2 to ensure the learning matches the child's needs.

## Science

The subject of Science is all about the investigation of how things work in the world around us. Pupils are taught the key skills of investigation to stimulate

their curiosity. They learn how to observe closely, to raise questions, to plan and carry out fair tests, to predict results and hypothesise about the results. Science teaches the children to accept evidence and have respect for the environment.

## Computing

At Dorchester we aim to equip our children for the technological world in which we live. iPads are in every classroom and our ICT suite allows each child to have their own computer. Teachers use ICT to engage the learning and for planning and delivering their lessons. Children use the computers regularly to enhance their own learning through research and programming. Use of video and still cameras allow the children to record and bring their learning to wider audiences.

## Foundation subjects

Through a variety of interesting and engaging topics, children will cover a range of other subjects: Art, History, Geography, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Design and Technology, and Computing. This cross-curricular approach brings learning to life and allows the children to develop a range of skills.

# Student council, helping to lead the school





**The Arts**

Dorchester is a highly creative school and has a series of themed days and weeks to bring the arts into the classroom. Children have an opportunity in Year 4 to learn an instrument (currently the trumpet or clarinet) and take part in an annual concert with other Sutton Schools at Fairfield Halls in Croydon. Our choir also attends the annual Sutton Musical Festival at Fairfield Halls. Drama and performances take place throughout the year in class assemblies and end of term productions which are well attended by our parents.Children throughout their time at Dorchester visit a number of historical places of interest as well as use the local area to promote geography skills. Each year a theatre company visits the school for a Christmas Panto.

Art and design skills are taught and developed across all years and in class as well as during extracurricular clubs.

**Home learning**

Home Learning is given weekly to support the learning at school. The additional support from completing the activities really boosts your child's potential and we ask for your support through offering your time and a calm and quiet environment in which the children can complete the tasks. Children are set assignments as

part of their Home Learning giving them the opportunity to explore a subject further or to research new topics.

**Religious education**

Dorchester Primary School follows an adapted version of the Agreed syllabus from Sutton SACRE. Each year group studies Christianity and at least one other world religion . The religions covered are Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism. Children visit different places of worship associated with the religions studied in their relevant year group.

**Physical education**

Each class has 2 hours of PE each week. This consists of a hall session for gymnastics or dance and an outdoor games session. The lessons focus on basic skills and allowing the children to apply the skills in routines for gym and dance or for team sports and athletics.

**Swimming**

The children in Years 3 to 6 use Cheam Swimming baths for an annual block of 5-10 lessons. We aim to have all children able to swim the national expected 25m before they leave in Year 6.

**Sex and Relationship Education**

Sex education is taught in Year 6 when the children are shown a video on puberty, birth and conception. The school nurse and class teachers deliver this part of the curriculum. Parents are invited to view the video before this and have any worries or questions answered beforehand. Younger children are taught about growth, animals and life cycles as part of their science and PSHE lessons.

**Friends of Dorchester School**

We have an active parents' and friends' association, and as a parent you are automatically a member. The Friends of Dorchester School (FODS) organise a variety of social and fundraising events each year and hold regular meetings. The fundraising has paid for many exciting resources in the school and playground.



**Assembling together**







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**WWW.**

**[www.dorchesterprimary.com](http://www.dorchesterprimary.com)**



**[@DorchesterP](https://twitter.com/DorchesterP)**

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