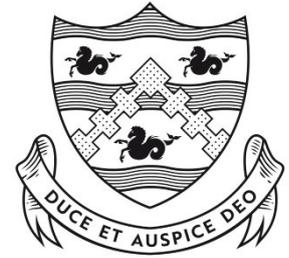


# Beaminster School



Ambition • Service • Kindness

Originally founded in 1685



## Parent Handbook and Prospectus 2022-23

**All you need to know about Beaminster School**

**Please keep this booklet handy for  
future reference throughout the year**

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# Welcome to our School

## Welcome to our School

We are proud of our school and its achievements across the whole curriculum. The challenge of the covid-19 pandemic has only reinforced our belief that this is a special place to learn, where students flourish and develop into ambitious young people with a kindness to others and a sense of service to themselves and their community.

We are optimistic about the future for our students and seek to develop their abilities in a happy, secure, stimulating and purposeful environment. The courses and extra-curricular experiences we offer are selected to allow our students to develop as individuals, and to make the most of their time with us.

The quality of our work depends upon the partnerships that we have between staff, parents, students and the wider community. We are fortunate to have good facilities, high standards of teaching, and supportive, caring staff.

We hope that you will play an active part in your child's education and we look forward to working with you to ensure the best outcomes for your child.

As a Christian Community school (founded in 1685) we use our strong foundations to look towards the future and to build upon the good work of our primary partners.

**"Students are proud of their school and speak highly of their teachers"**  
*Ofsted*

**"For the first time in his life, our son is happy to go to school. He likes all his teachers and has made lots of friends. He is always encouraged, supported and listened to"**  
*Parent Survey*

## OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Mr Keith Hales**  
Headteacher



**Mr David Withers**  
Deputy Headteacher



**Mr Richard Barnes**  
Assistant Headteacher



**"The Leadership Team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection"**  
*Ofsted*

# Our School Aims

## Beaminster School aims to:

- Promote all round excellence
- Achieve high quality academic standards through quality teaching and learning
- Develop self-discipline, enterprise, responsibility and independent learning
- Value, encourage and support all students according to their needs
- Prepare students to succeed in a changing world
- Make sure students are aware of and respond to the needs of others
- Work in partnership with the wider community to the benefit of both



## As a Christian foundation school we promote:

- Moral strength and spiritual depth to hold a course in the face of difficulties
- Have knowledge that family life and love of one's neighbours is more important than economic values
- Reverence for the beauty of creation
- Discussion of the great questions of life, death, meaning and truth

**“Pupils shine at Beaminster School because of the rich education they are given. They are served by a talented staff team committed to the school’s Christian vision for a flourishing community“**

**Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report May 2019**

Beaminster School is a Christian designated 11–18 Co-Educational school, with Christian affiliations, accepting students of all faiths and religious inclinations. With origins dating back to the 17th Century, the present school opened in purpose built accommodation in 1963.

The main school stands on the edge of Beaminster in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty close to the Jurassic Coast, and provides education for students drawn from a wide rural area.



The town itself, with a population of about 3,000, is renowned for its charm and historic interest. Our current school roll is 675 students with around 90 members of staff.

Most students come to us from one of the Beaminster Pyramid or West Dorset Collaboration of primary schools:

- St Mary’s Academy Beaminster
- Broadwindsor School
- Salway Ash School
- Greenford School, Maiden Newton
- Parrett and Axe School, Mosterton
- Sticklands School, Evershot



BEAMINSTER PYRAMID

**“It’s been a really positive start to secondary school, she’s settled in well and enjoys lots of subjects”**  
**Parent Survey**

A considerable number of out-of-catchment students also join us each year from over 26 partner primary schools, including: Charmouth, Loders, St Catherine’s Bridport, St Mary’s Bridport, St Michael’s Lyme Regis, Thorners, Chard, Thorncombe, Sherborne, Symondsbury, Powerstock, Leweston, East Coker, West Chinnock, Hinton St George, Norton-sub-Hamdon, Martock, Winsham, Holy Trinity, Marshwood, The Redstart, St Andrews, Powerstock, South Petherton and Maiden Beech in Crewkerne.



# Who to Contact

We are aware that sometimes things don't always run as smoothly for our young people as we would all like, so we have very clear procedures in place to help parents get any issues resolved as quickly as possible.

## The Tutor – ALWAYS YOUR FIRST POINT OF CONTACT

Your child's Tutor is always your **first** point of call for any student enquiries.

## The Subject Teacher

For any academic issues relating to a particular subject.

## Head of Year

Heads of Year should only become involved **after** the Tutor has been contacted, to help resolve any other issues.

Heads of Year deal with discipline and more serious or confidential concerns about school work or welfare.

## Head of Pastoral Care: Mr Ian Randall

The Head of Pastoral Care should only become involved **after** the Tutor **and** Head of Year have been contacted and been unable to resolve an issue, for more serious discipline issues or for overall development and progress.

## Deputy Head: Mr David Withers

Has overall responsibility for the Pastoral Team and pastoral care.

**"Following a meeting with the Tutor I felt very happy and confident issues discussed would be addressed"**  
*Parent Survey*

**"Pastoral care has proved to be of a very high standard"**  
*Parent Survey*

## The Pastoral Team for 2022-23

Head of Pastoral Care	Mr I Randall
Head of Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13)	Mr J See
Head of Year 11	Mr K Donovan
Head of Year 10	Mr M Stevens
Head of Year 9	Mrs R Randall
Head of Year 8	Mr P Prendergast
Head of Year 7	Ms B Smith
Student Support and Guidance Centre Manager	Mrs D Berry
Pastoral Support Officer (PSO)	Mrs H Challis



Mr Randall  
Head of Pastoral Care

**"Pastoral support is very strong, emotional/social support is essential before any learning can take place"**  
*Parent Survey*

**"My son has a superb tutor and I love the system in place where they keep the same tutor throughout"**  
*Parent Survey*

**"Pupils are confident and safe and feel very well cared for"**  
*Ofsted*

# Office Contacts and Website

## Who Should I Speak To ...?

Our experienced office staff are your first point of contact and are always very happy to help and advise you. They are also best placed to advise about who you may need to speak to should you have a particular query.

**"I find conversations very helpful and friendly"  
Parent Survey**

**School Telephone: 01308 862633 Email: [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)**

Please note that our lines are **very busy first thing in the morning**, so unless it is an emergency or to report an absence (the dedicated Absence Line is 01308 861917 and available 24 hours), it is really helpful if you are able to leave your call until a little later in the day if possible, ideally after 9.15am.

Head's PA / Office Manager / Admissions  
Exams Manager  
Finance Manager  
Data Officer  
Pastoral Admin Officer  
Reception / Buses / Lockers / Lost Property  
Trips and Visits  
Work Experience Admin / Student Progression  
SSGC / Student Attendance and Absences

Mrs N Chalkley  
Mrs H Emmett  
Ms K Poole  
Miss C Loveless  
Mrs S Channing  
Mrs H Thorne  
Mrs M Stone  
Mrs L Baker  
Mrs D Berry / Mrs H Challis

**"Communication between staff and parents has always been excellent and we have felt the whole school has been open and accessible to us as parents in terms of contact with teachers"  
Parent Survey**

## School information, forms, letters

The vast majority of information is now sent out electronically via ParentMail but copies of school information can always be obtained from Reception and/or found on the school website. Please remember to update the office of any change of address or contact details as soon as possible.

## Beaminster School Website: [www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Our website has lots of useful school information and is regularly updated. Term dates, exam dates, our school events calendar and copies of important letters and information sent home can all be found here.

In the case of extreme weather information is posted as early as possible on the website to alert parents should the school have to close at short notice. Urgent information is displayed on the home page. Do have a look at the website and let us know what you think.

## Beaminster School Social Media Sites

Our social media sites are another great way for us to promote our school and celebrate our students' successes with parents and the wider community. It is also a great way for us to build links with other organisations.

We have a popular Facebook page and you can also follow us on Twitter (@BeaminsterSch) to see lots of photos and other information about what's going on in school.

Quick links to our social media sites can be found on the front page of the school website.



# Primary Transition

Good pastoral support enables our students to feel confident and secure and we take pride in the high quality of our pastoral provision. When students arrive at Beaminster they are allocated to a mixed ability Tutor Group. We have five Tutor Groups in each year, one for each house: Eggardon, Lewesdon, Pilsdon, Waddon and Mapperton, all named after local landmarks.

For tutoring purposes students remain within these groups from Year 7 through to Year 11 (although teaching groups will vary). On entry to the Sixth Form, students are then allocated a specialist Sixth Form Tutor.



Heads of Year have oversight of all students in their care. This allows us to focus effectively upon both academic progress and student welfare. The Heads of Year, Tutors and Co-Tutors work together to monitor academic progress and personal development, taking an interest in each individual student.

**“Your staff know the pupils well  
and are able to support them effectively”**  
*Ofsted*

Where individual students may need help and support our pastoral staff work closely with outside agencies including the Medical Service, Educational Psychological Service, Behaviour Support Service, the West Dorset Locality Team and an independent careers service.

**“I have nothing but praise for Beaminster,  
my daughter has grown in confidence  
and her results are going well”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“The support and encouragement our  
daughter received having changed school  
was fantastic”**  
*Parent Survey*

Before the start of the new academic year, the Head of Year and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) visit each primary school to meet staff and all the students who will be transferring to Beaminster. This ensures that the move from primary to secondary school is as smooth and as free as possible from anxiety.

Students spend two full days at Beaminster in the summer term prior to transfer as part of their induction process, and there are also a variety of fun and exciting link activities arranged with the primary schools, such as the science Explorer Dome and sporting events.

Tutor groups are arranged so that on arrival every child should have at least one friend in the group. On their first day in September, only Year 7 are in school to give our new students plenty of time to find their way around school in a less busy environment.

The progress and wellbeing of individual students is discussed weekly by the Pastoral Management Team, and half termly by all staff. Letters home or requests for meetings with parents follow these meetings if necessary.

We have a dedicated page for Transition information on our school website:

<http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk/year-6-transition-information>



# Attendance

## Attendance Regulations

Attendance at school is very important because any time away from school can have a significant impact on a student's educational attainment, success in later life and their longer term health and well being. DfE research shows that when attendance falls to 85% a pupil will have dropped a grade in their GCSE results. **80% attendance = missing 1 day of school per week.** The Government changed the law with regard to granting term time leave of absence which states:

**Schools may NOT grant ANY leave of absence during term time unless there are **EXCEPTIONAL** circumstances.**

This replaces the previous regulation that allowed schools to grant up to 10 days leave of absence at their discretion. Dorset Council supports all schools in ensuring the law is upheld. In law, parents and carers are committing an offence if they fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at school.

Therefore, **any** unauthorised absence, such as taking holidays in term time, can result in the issuing of a Fixed Term Penalty Notice. Failure to pay a Fixed Term Penalty Notice may result in a criminal conviction and a fine in the magistrates court of up to £1000.

**“Our son is very happy and settled and progressing, thank you”**  
*Parent Survey*



**“Working closely with parents, you have reduced the number of pupils who are persistently absent from school”**  
*Ofsted*

## Students arriving late or leaving the site during the school day

We need to know where our students are at all times, e.g. should there be a fire alarm, so if a student arrives late into school they **must sign in at Reception**. Parents must ensure that the student has an explanatory note or that they have telephoned the school to explain the reason for lateness (Absence Line 01308 861917).

Students may, occasionally, need to leave the school premises during the day, for example, to attend medical or other such appointments. Students must NOT use their mobiles to phone home and ask to be collected. Parents should either telephone the school office, or write, in advance, to inform their child's tutor of the date and time of any such appointments and when the child will need to leave the school site, and all students **must sign out at Reception**.

Appointments should be made at the **beginning or end** of the school day to minimise absence from school wherever possible, and students are expected to return to school promptly following appointments.

**Please note that students should not miss a whole day of school for routine medical or dental appointments, which should be made outside of the school day wherever possible.**

# School Information

## Health and Medical Conditions

Please make us aware of any medical condition that may affect a student's attendance at or performance in school. This includes any special care or medication that may be required during school hours.

**"Overall a good school"  
Parent Survey**

## COVID-19

Should your child develop any symptoms of COVID-19 please inform the school immediately, keep them at home and follow all Government guidance in force at the time. Should a student become symptomatic at school, you will be asked to collect them as soon as possible whilst we notify the relevant authorities, and follow the relevant Government guidance.

We ask parents/carers of new students to fully complete the student registration form, which includes a medical section, and for parents/carers to notify us of any changes as soon as possible.

**Our First Aiders can deal with minor injuries or illnesses only, so parents/carers must ensure their child is well enough to attend school and take part in all activities before they leave home in the morning, and please note, we do not hold and cannot administer paracetamol.**

In the event of more serious illness or injuries parents/carers may be contacted and the student may have to go home. Every effort is made to contact parents/carers should specialist advice be necessary from local doctors or the hospital. It is therefore essential that you advise us of any change of emergency contacts as soon as possible.

**Please note that students are NOT required to remain at home for 48hrs following sickness**

**As long as they are not infectious, it is up to you, as parents/carers, to decide when your child is fit enough to return to school after illness**

## School Meals and Cashless Catering

We have a large and well supervised canteen and dining room area with a healthy range of food provided at breakfast, breaks and lunchtimes. There are tables and seating areas both in and outdoors which has made this a really pleasant environment for both staff and students to be able to relax and enjoy their food.

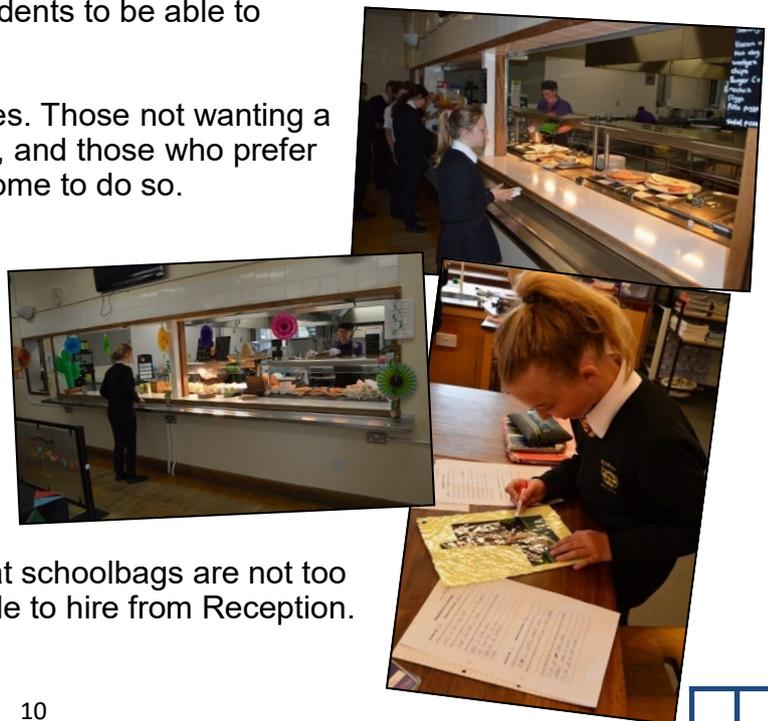
Our caterers offer high quality at reasonable prices. Those not wanting a full meal can buy rolls, sandwiches or hot snacks, and those who prefer to bring their own food from home are most welcome to do so.

We have an efficient and completely cashless catering system which has proved popular with students, parents/carers and staff. All new students are shown how to use the system and parents/carers are then able to top-up lunch accounts online via ParentMail.

**"It's great to be able to see what your child is eating on ParentMail"  
Parent Survey**

## Lockers

We recognise that students need adequate provision to store their property and to ensure that schoolbags are not too heavy to be carried safely, so lockers are available to hire from Reception.



# School Information

## The House System

The well established House system supports competitive sport and a wide range of inter-house activities.

Senior Prefects run House assemblies each term, and the House colours are:

Dark Blue	Eggardon
Red	Lewesdon
Light Blue	Mapperton
Purple	Pilsdon
Green	Waddon



## Lost property

All named items that are found and handed in will be returned directly to the student. Please ensure all items are clearly and indelibly marked with your child's name – it is almost impossible to reunite students with their belongings if they are not named.

## Free School Meals

It is quick and easy to check if your child may be eligible for free school meals by going to:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

**The school gets additional funding related to Free School Meals so by making a claim you will also be helping the school.**

Free school meals students are issued with an annual discount code (currently £35) to use against the cost of school uniform.



**“Your school has a relatively small proportion of disadvantaged pupils.  
... Their progress has increased rapidly in most subject areas”  
*Ofsted***

**“Very pleased with our choice of Beaminster School!”  
*Parent Survey***



# ParentMail +Pay

## ParentMail

We try very hard to keep parents regularly informed about what is going on at the school. However, sending paper

letters home can be rather 'hit and miss' with letters often going astray in the bottom of school bags.

We are also increasingly aware of the substantial cost and environmental impact associated with the amount of paper, photocopying and postage involved, so we use a service called ParentMail in conjunction with +Pay. This is beneficial because:

- Important school information gets to you reliably
- Messages and/or texts go straight to your inbox or 'phone via the **free** ParentMail app
- We can tell you more about what is going on at the school quickly and easily
- You can make electronic payments, including lunch money top-ups, and track them online
- You can easily see what information you have been sent.

**"Very good communication to the parents, brief but informative newsletter every Friday is very good"**  
*Parent Survey*

ParentMail fully complies with GDPR and guarantees that all information you provide will be kept private and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

The email address **info@parentmail.co.uk** should be added to your contacts/address book/safe senders list to ensure that ParentMail emails do not go into junk/spam folders.



**"Online access to sort payments is very easy to use"**  
*Parent Survey*

**"The school is smaller than the average school"**  
*Ofsted*

**"The school has great teachers"**  
*Parent Survey*



# Our Facilities

- Solar panels on most of our school buildings
- 3 Court Sports Hall
- Fitness Suite
- Tennis courts
- 3G all-weather pitch
- Fully equipped gymnasium
- Upgraded toilets and gym changing rooms (Summer 2021)
- Extensive playing fields with athletics facilities
- Cricket pitch and pavilion
- Specialist rooms for all subjects
- Modern Science block with six laboratories
- Art studio and Textiles room
- Food Technology room
- Design and Technology areas
- Drama studio
- Music Technology Suite with Apple Mac computers
- Music recording Studio with practice rooms
- Two dedicated ICT suites
- Photography Suite with Apple Mac computers
- Learning Resource Centre including computer suite
- Careers Library
- Assembly hall, newly resurfaced, which also serves as a performance area for plays and concerts and is fitted with state of the art sound and lighting equipment
- Fully equipped Sixth Form study centre with computer suite
- Lifts and ramp facilities for wheelchair access
- Teaching rooms adapted for visual and hearing impairment
- Dining room and outdoor eating area
- Cashless catering system
- Sporting facilities can be used by the local community, and can be booked by contacting the school office



## Access to School Site

We have an Accessibility Plan for disabled access which is regularly reviewed by Governors. Access considerations are always borne in mind at the early stages of planning for any new buildings, such as the Sports Hall.

**“You have carefully considered the security of the site and taken steps to ensure pupils’ safety”**  
*Ofsted*

**“The school have always been supportive of additional sporting activities and we are grateful for this”**  
*Parent Survey*



# Our Facilities

## Science Block

Science is taught in a purpose built block, which was formally opened by Dr David Bellamy, and which has a suite of six laboratories. The large atrium provides additional space and also allows for individual study and computer access. A dedicated preparation room and staff area ensures that students are well provided for from Year 7 right through to A level practical examinations.



**“Senior Leaders are committed to providing a curriculum that fulfils the needs and capabilities of pupils”**  
*Ofsted*

## Music Suite

Our Music Suite, formally opened in January 2019, has four dedicated practice rooms and a large airy and well-equipped teaching space.



## Technology Block

We have six dedicated teaching areas in our Technology block. One of these uses computers to design and manufacture products using both traditional and laser cutting tools including a 3D prototyper and laser CAD/CAM.



Other areas ensure that a wide range of materials can be investigated and manufactured through a variety of medium that include textiles, food, resistant materials and graphics. These are all enhanced through links with Further Education providers.



## Photography Suite

We have a dedicated and well-equipped Photography Suite.



## Computer Suites

We have a number of well equipped computer suites located around the school in addition to computers in classrooms that are regularly used by students. The 6th Form have their own suite of computers.



**“Wonderful school”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“You have been resolute in your drive to raise the aspirations of all pupils”**  
*Ofsted*

**We have our own minibus for transporting students to sporting fixtures and other extra curricular activities**



# Learning Resource Centre

## Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

Our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) offers spacious accommodation for both individual private study and research or whole-class work.

It is fully equipped with 15 computer desks and a mezzanine floor is available for exclusive Sixth Form study use. Alongside the LRC are a separate computer suite, careers library, reprographics base and Integrated Learning Room.

The LRC has thousands of books – fiction, non fiction and reference – and is constantly increasing and updating its stock. A computerised cataloguing and search system operates which includes a security system.

Every Year 7 student is shown how to use the LRC and is issued with a booklet outlining key points for future reference. LRC staff are available throughout the day to help students and make sure that they gain maximum benefit from this first-class facility.

**“Pupils now read a wider range of texts”**  
*Ofsted*



**“I am generally very impressed with Beaminster and its teachers, thank you”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“Particularly impressed by the every day lunchtime support”**  
*Parent Survey*

## Literacy, Reading Weeks and Bedrock Learning

Reading is very important to children’s achievement across the curriculum.

We have a focus on reading across the school, including regular Reading Weeks throughout the school year, and we ask all parents and carers to also encourage and support your child with their reading at home.

All students in Years 7 and 8 use a digital literacy programme called Bedrock Learning. All parents and carers will have personal login details to Bedrock and we would encourage you to log on to see how well your child is doing.

Bedrock encourages independent learning, helps students with comprehension and grammar, and broadens their vocabulary, all essential elements for being able to access the curriculum.

As parents and carers, you can help your child become a better reader by encouraging them to read at home for at least 20 minutes daily, discussing what books they are reading and asking them questions about what they have read, and visiting your local library.

You can also encourage them to do additional work on Bedrock Learning.



# Rewarding Achievement

## Rewarding Achievement

All young people respond to praise and encouragement and the school sees great value in praising and rewarding achievement OF ALL KINDS.

Parents are now able to log in to ClassCharts and see their child's conduct, attendance and achievement record.

Students can purchase items from the reward shop using their achievement points, including vouchers, raffle tickets for the termly draw and a range of other practical items.

Academic, sporting and many other achievements at all levels, are marked on these important occasions, with items of entertainment provided by the students.

Celebration assemblies are held each term to recognise achievement at every level. Those in Year 8 are expected to "graduate" into Upper School and this is celebrated at a "Graduation Ceremony" in July.

**"The most able students' progress was above average"**  
*Ofsted*

The achievements of students in the Upper School are celebrated with a range of awards at the annual Presentation Evening held in the Autumn Term.

We are very proud of our students and keen to promote and celebrate their many and varied achievements out of school, so please do let Mrs Chalkley in the office know of anything your son or daughter may do that we can share and celebrate with others.

Please email your photos and information to: [NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:NChalkley@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)



**"I am delighted with the school in almost every respect"**  
*Parent Survey*



# Supporting Success

## Supporting Success

As a school, we support Behaviour 4 Learning (B4L). This is a school-wide system of teaching, monitoring, supporting and rewarding positive behaviours, in order to create a disruption-free environment. This allows students to learn to their maximum potential, and allows teachers the time to complete their education programmes without wasting time dealing with unacceptable behaviour.

*Positive recognition of achievement is the main feature of the system.*

Teachers set out to praise and reward students who show and maintain positive attitudes towards learning and behaviour. This is reflected in achievement evenings and student awards. Our rewards system works very well across the whole school.

Primarily the words *sanctions* and *punishment* are replaced by the word *consequence*. We believe that practically all our students know how to behave in an acceptable manner, because you as parents have taught them to do so. Therefore, when they are being disruptive, they are choosing to do so. That choice will result in an appropriate consequence. Again this will have been clearly explained to all students.

We are also mindful that for some students, poor behaviour can be a communication of need.

**“Very pleased with the school and teaching. Daughter is very happy, inspired and interested”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“Teachers’ focus on improving pupils’ writing, particularly for boys, has paid off”**  
*Ofsted*



**“You have maintained a positive atmosphere in the school”**  
*Ofsted*

## Key Rules for the Classroom

1. Preparation: Arrive at the lesson ready to learn, with correct books, equipment and kit
2. Work: Complete all classwork and submit homework on time
3. Listen: Be silent when your teacher is talking and show you are paying attention
4. Manners: Follow instructions; do not argue or answer back.

## Rewards (Positive Recognition)

1. Verbal praise
2. Achievement points (which can be used in the reward shop)
3. Notes written to parents in books and handbooks
4. Letters of commendation
5. Praise postcards from a Head of Department, Year Head or Head of Pastoral Care
6. Headteacher’s Certificates.

**“I have nothing but positive things to say about Beaminster School, they have been brilliant with my daughter since day 1”**  
*Parent Survey*

## Consequences

1. Verbal warning, formal warning, detention
2. Isolation within room
3. Removal by Pastoral Support Officer or Senior Teacher
4. Internal isolation
5. Exclusion (fixed term or permanent).

Parents will be made aware of these actions, depending upon the level.



# Student Support

## Academic Support

Teaching and learning are at the heart of any school and Beaminster places great emphasis on ensuring the quality of both.

They provide the particular focus for most of the staff training days, since the aim is always to improve the quality of academic provision in the school still further. As a comprehensive school, we welcome children of all abilities.

We are ambitious for **all** our learners.

There is excellent support for those with learning difficulties and an emphasis also on how to best challenge our more able students. Between these two extremes, of course, lie the majority of students and the intention is that each one of them will be given every assistance to reach their full academic potential.



**“Senior Leaders make regular checks on the quality of teaching and learning”**  
*Ofsted*

**“Very impressed with the help my son has received from his core subject teachers this year”**  
*Parent Survey*

## Homework / Directed Study

Homework develops study skills and children’s ability to work independently, as well as providing opportunities to complete work, reflect on what has been learned in school and revise for exams.

At Beaminster, teachers set homework on ClassCharts. This allows parents and students to keep track of what homework has been set and when it is due. Where appropriate, students can also upload homework to their teachers via ClassCharts and receive feedback for work completed.



Where students regularly fail to complete or hand in tasks set, we have a range of support strategies to help them develop their organisational and time-management skills so they become confident independent learners.

A system of warnings, directed support sessions and detentions can also be used which are communicated via ClassCharts. If accumulated, these can lead to further contact with home.

## Student Handbook

These are issued to all students in Years 7 to 11, who are expected to always have them at school. Handbooks help students to focus on, and organise, their learning.

Academic targets are decided on and monitored in discussion with tutors.

**“The Head of Year is an excellent support to the students and takes any parental concerns seriously”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“Policies and practices reflect the latest guidance”**  
*Ofsted*



# Guide to Success

## What do I need to do well at school?

- Attend school every day
- Arrive at school on time and be punctual to all lessons
- Come to school properly dressed, equipped and prepared
- Be positive, pro-active, courteous, willing and helpful
- Follow the school Code of Conduct and core values (ASK)
- Complete your work to the best of your ability and on time
- Listen carefully and follow all instructions first time
- Get involved and make the most of your opportunities.

**“As a result of these higher expectations hitting home, the quality of teaching has improved”**  
*Ofsted*

**“Overall the school has impressed us and all students come across as confident and well-mannered”**  
*Parent Survey*



## What happens if I do all of the above?

- **Praise.** Staff will let you know that they are impressed with your efforts
- **Achievement Points.** Staff will reward you for positive responses or outcomes with Achievement points. You can monitor your Achievement points online
- **Praise Postcards.** Sent home to the top 3 students in each class for every subject (half termly) based on effort, behaviour and level of attainment
- **Letters of Congratulation.** Following half termly pupil review meetings and reports
- **Certificates.** For attendance or subject related achievements – usually awarded in assemblies
- **Celebration Assemblies.** Year assemblies give weekly opportunities for public praise. End of term assemblies are more formal occasions for significant achievements to get school wide recognition
- **Academic Mentoring Days.** These allow you, your parents and tutor to meet and share positive aspects of performance in all subjects and outside school
- **Reports.** Regular reports sent home to parents will highlight your efforts. A letter of commendation will be sent home for consistently good effort and behaviour across all subjects
- **Parent Consultation Evenings.** These allow you and your parents to meet with your subject teachers to hear all about your achievements in individual subjects
- **Awards.** These are presented at celebration assemblies to recognise attendance, effort, attainment, general conduct and service to the school and wider community.



**Remember** – you are an important part of what makes this school what it is!

**“Beaminster School has been a happy place for my daughter. The staff have helped her grow in confidence and achieve academically. She has been offered many wonderful extra-curricular opportunities which she has been lucky enough to take up. She has always felt cared for at school and part of a community which included both staff and pupils. Thank you!”**  
*Parent Survey*

# Challenge for All

Through our school-wide approach of Responsive Teaching, we aim to provide all pupils with academic challenge and a range of opportunities to help them fulfil their potential and secure the highest possible levels of achievement.

Challenge in lessons linked to Responsive Teaching has been shown to raise the achievement levels of all pupils and we are committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of circumstance, are exposed to rich, challenging and thought-provoking classroom learning and wider opportunities.

At Beaminster, subject areas also identify and work to support students who display talent in certain areas, for example, Sport, Drama, Music, Art. We want all students, including the most able, to be fully immersed in their environment.

Subject areas will support our young people through a range of extension or enrichment opportunities, such as a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) project linking science and technology with art, allowing students to explore the longstanding links between these areas, or through our new and exciting Epistemic Insight Project with Canterbury Christ Church University. This project will play a part in informing future government approaches to education and is just one example of the national opportunities that our pupils may be involved in.

**“I am very positive about the school. It feels like it is going upwards in its aspirations for pupils and in its systems and support for pupils. Well done!”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“You have introduced major curriculum reorganisation and instigated a step change in professional development for staff at the school”**  
*Ofsted*



**“We are very pleased with our experience of Beaminster School, it has/is bringing out the best in our daughter”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“Staff are left in no doubt that they are responsible for developing their practice”**  
*Ofsted*





# Structure of the School Day

## Pattern of the School Day, Lesson Times

Morning	
8.35am	Staff Briefing
<b>8.45am</b>	<b>Registration/Assembly</b>
(9.05am)	<i>Movement to Lesson 1</i>
<b>9.10am</b>	<b>LESSON 1</b>
(10.10am)	<i>Movement to Lesson 2</i>
<b>10.15am</b>	<b>LESSON 2</b>
11.15-11.30	<i>Break</i>
<b>11.35am</b>	<b>LESSON 3</b>
Afternoon	
12.35pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1.20pm	<i>End of Lunch</i>
<b>1.25pm</b>	<b>LESSON 4</b>
(2.25pm)	<i>Movement to Lesson 5</i>
<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>LESSON 5</b>
3.30pm	<i>End of School</i>
3.40pm	<i>Buses Depart</i>

Should you wish to speak to a member of staff, please leave any non-urgent calls until **after 9.15am** where possible please



**"Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school site"**  
*Ofsted*

**"Overall we love Beaminster, it has passed all our expectations and our son is thriving"**  
*Parent Survey*

All pupils will need a large school bag in which to carry their books  
They will need pencils, a pen or biro, a rubber and a 150mm ruler

## **WE OPERATE A NO MOBILE PHONE POLICY IN SCHOOL**

Any mobiles/MP3/4 players **WILL be confiscated** if seen and/or used during school hours and will **NOT** be returned to the student - **a parent or carer will be required to come and collect any confiscated mobiles.**

Mobile 'phones are for personal security **out of school hours and off the school site only.**

Students should **NOT** be contacted directly on mobiles during school hours. If parents/carers need to get a message to their child you should contact the school office who will get a message to them (this should be for emergencies only please and not to make domestic or social arrangements).

**Should a student need to contact home during the school day (for essential or emergency reasons only) they can do so at Reception.**

Mobiles must be switched off and left securely in Reception at the start of the day and collected again at the end of the day, or kept switched off and out of sight in bags (not in pockets).



# The School Day

## Start of the Day

- To ensure safe queuing, no parking is allowed in the playground.
- Heads of Year supervise their students. On wet days:

Year 7 and 8 students should go to the Hall  
Year 9 to the Tech foyer  
Year 10 to the Science foyer  
Year 11 to the Music foyer.



- Pastoral staff will supervise students in their area.
- At the end of briefing, tutors go to collect tutor groups from outside and escort them to tutor rooms.
- Uniform should be inspected by tutors at the start of each day .

**“Pupils respect each other  
and their teachers”  
Ofsted**

## Morning Registration

- Tutor reps rather than tutors collect any items which may need handing out to students from the tutor pigeonhole in Reception. Once students enter tutor rooms, they hang up coats and PE kit and stand quietly behind chairs until told to sit.
- Tutors should insist on silence during registration and that students answer clearly and politely when their name is called.
- The register "closes" at 9am. Students arriving after 9am should be marked late unless you know that their lateness is due to a late-arriving bus (in which case mark as present).
- One tutor session a week is for literacy related activities or silent reading.
- A Thought for the Week is used and discussed when there is no assembly with time available for prayer or reflection.
- Please follow the pattern for the week – assembly, silent reading, topical debate etc.

**“Teachers all seem very caring and kind”  
Parent Survey**

**“Pupils express a strong moral duty to  
respect and accept others”  
Ofsted**

## Assembly

- As a Christian community school we believe this is an important part of the day for students of all or no faith.
- Students should arrive quietly as a tutor group, in a line, with outdoor garments removed and uniform correctly worn.
- Once inside students must remain silent and settle quickly.
- At the start or end of every assembly students will be asked to bow their heads for a few moments (for silent prayer, reflection or thought).
- At the end of the assembly they will be instructed to leave row by row through front and rear entrances. This should be done quietly, sensibly and in single file.
- Ensure students go directly to their lesson. They must not wait in corridors or outside for friends.

**Tutors register their groups – this is compulsory for all.**



# The School Day

## Before and During Lessons

- Students should go directly to their lessons.
- Lateness is recorded and accumulative Lates could cost them a lunchtime or even a day of their holiday.
- Students must line up quietly outside the room or in the courtyard as directed by the member of staff and ensure they are prepared for the lesson.
- The building/corridor/room should be entered quietly and sensibly (single file) and students must stand behind their chair.
- Students only sit when invited to do so by the member of staff.
- Student should remain silent but get equipment out quickly and quietly and complete the 'do now' task.
- The register should be answered with 'Yes Sir/Miss' or in a manner directed by the teacher.
- Follow instructions first time and complete all class/homework tasks set.
- All communication should be directed by the teacher (hand up etc).



## Lessons

- Where possible, students queue silently outside rooms until told to enter and then wait quietly behind chairs until told to sit.
- The register will be taken within the first ten minutes – compulsory for all lessons.
- Students should not be allowed out of lessons without a note in their handbook; the following are valid reasons for to leave the room during lessons: to go to the LRC for research, or to the reprographics room; to take a message to the office; to see the Welfare Officer if ill, but ONLY for serious illness; access to ICT.

**"Thank you to all the staff for their efforts in providing a good and nurturing environment for our daughter"  
Parent Survey**

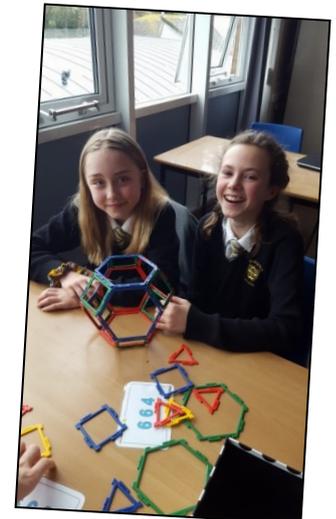
## Student Movement Around the School

Students should:

- keep to the left in corridors and observe the one-way system, carrying bags appropriately
- move sensibly, calmly and considerately; no running or jostling
- not shout or make excessive noise
- give way and show good manners towards staff
- use the one-way system in B block and side entrance and exit in A Block
- use the loo or have a drink should they wish, but arrive to lessons on time

Staff should:

- Enforce school rules and procedures in and outside of lessons
- Not release students before the bell



**"Pupils and staff appreciate your approachable yet determined leadership"  
Ofsted**



# The School Day

## Breaks and Lunchtime

- Bags or coats should not be taken into the canteen but left on the racks in the foyer.
- Classrooms may be used as bases in wet weather.
- Break and lunchtime duty staff are supported by a number of prefects.
- The school building should not be used to cut through to outdoor areas. They must go round.
- Students may eat in the canteen or anywhere outside.
- Everyone must respect each others' space/privacy, environment and belongings.
- Students must remain in bounds and keep our site litter free by using the bins provided.
- All ball games should take place on the field (summer) or courts, not in the courtyard or near school buildings.
- Student must line up sensibly for the canteen and follow the instructions of staff, Midday supervisors and prefects.
- Bags should be left in lockers or the allocated space in the dining hall foyer.
- Outdoor water points should be used to fill bottles. Only water should be consumed during lessons.
- In wet weather only the rooms allocated to the year group should be used.
- Prefects and staff will supervise wet weather rooms.
- Everyone must keep off the grass between October half term and Easter unless directed otherwise
- The lower path by the canteen and surrounding area must not be used.
- In summer Years 7 and 8 should use the left hand (Fleet Street) side of the field and Years 9, 10 and 11 should use the right hand (Pavilion side). All students should stay school side of the red line painted on the grass and stay away from the dividing hedge.
- Trainers may only be worn when actually on the field or courts playing sport. They must be removed before leaving these areas.
- Smoking/vaping, being associated with smokers/vapers or carrying any equipment used for smoking/vaping will result in a 1 day exclusion in the first instance and loss of holiday on subsequent occasions.
- Mobile phones are for personal security out of school hours only. During school hours they must be deposited at Reception on arrival in school and collected at the end of the school day, or kept switched off and out of sight in bags. If caught with a mobile phone out, visible, or on the person, it will be confiscated. No portable music devices/cameras (e.g. MP3s/iPods etc) allowed in school.



## End of the Day

- Students must leave lessons calmly and make their way sensibly home or to the bus park
- Students should not collect products from technology or reception before 3:30pm
- If the bus is waiting, students may board.
- Students who do not catch a bus should not use the bus park to socialise.
- All students must wait behind the painted white line for their bus to arrive and not board buses without staff permission. Orderly queuing and boarding of buses is expected.
- The most senior students will board first. Students must ensure they have their pass ready.
- For service buses, those entitled to travel, i.e. have a bus pass, will board first from Year 11 down to Year 7, then those with return tickets, then those paying for a ticket.
- Once on the bus students are expected to sit quietly and behave sensibly. They must remain in their seat and wear seat belts if provided. Inappropriate behaviour or language that distracts the driver or upsets others will be met significant consequences that might include suspension from travel or an outright ban.
- Mobile phones/iPods etc should not be visible or in use until students are on the bus and off the school site.
- Taxi pickups are from the rear of the bus park or the courtyard for students with SEN. EVERYONE should use the paths – NOT walk across the bus park.
- Parental pickups should be outside the school site, or the bus park after 3.50pm.

# Transport Safety

All students are reminded that whenever they are in school uniform they are acting as ambassadors and representatives of the school in the wider community, and should therefore behave in a manner that reflects positively on the good name and reputation of the school.

Students should follow all Government guidance and regulations in place for COVID-19.

## Students using Buses, Coaches, Minibuses, Taxis

- While waiting for their vehicle students should stay on the pavement (if there is one) or as far as possible off the road
- Students should wait until the bus has fully stopped before they try to board or alight. Boarding should be done in a calm and sensible way
- Students should take great care when crossing the road to reach their vehicle, and follow basic road and general safety principles at all times
- Students should make way for other pedestrians while they are waiting, and behave in a way which would not be seen as anti-social to those who live or work next to the boarding points

**“Beaminster continues to be a school we are pleased to send our children to. We are out of catchment so it was not the school they should have gone to”**  
*Parent Survey*

If transport does not arrive at 3.30 students **MUST NOT** try to walk home or make their own arrangements but should report to the teachers on bus duty who will assist in making arrangements to get home.

**“The bus transport service to the school from Crewkerne is brilliant”**  
*Parent Survey*

## Bus / Transport Behaviour Rules

- If a bus is fitted with seat belts students must use them.
- Students must not get out of their seat while the bus is moving.
- Students must not use bad language, or behave in a way that might cause distraction, concern or offence to the drivers, others on the bus, or to the general public.
- If prefects tell students to stop misbehaving, they must do as they say. Prefects will report any students who refuse to comply to a member of staff and there will be consequences.
- If the bus is involved in an accident, or breaks down, students should stay on the bus. They may only leave the bus if specifically told to do so by the driver (this is unlikely, and would only happen if it were safer to leave the bus than stay on board). If students leave the bus they should find a safe place to wait at the roadside. Sixth formers and prefects are expected to help the driver to keep other students calm and orderly on the bus or at the roadside until assistance arrives. If the driver is hurt and cannot take control of the situation, then Sixth formers and prefects will take charge, ring school and emergency services (999) and deal with the situation as calmly and efficiently as possible until help arrives.
- If there is an accident, a student carrying a mobile phone should inform the school (01308 862633). We would need to know where the accident happened, and whether anybody had been injured. If the driver does not have a mobile, students should be prepared to lend theirs to the driver to ring for help or emergency services etc. (the cost of any calls will be reimbursed).
- Students should not call parents unless the school advises you to, as this can cause unnecessary worry.



**“Recommended by other parents”**  
*Parent Survey*

# Transport Safety

Students whose behaviour is unacceptable on the bus can expect to be sanctioned in school, and their parents informed. If their behaviour threatens safety on the bus, or if they fail to comply with the rules, they may be banned from using the vehicle for a period of time, and parents will be responsible for getting their children to and from school.



## If a Bus is Late

- Students are expected to wait at the bus stop for up to 30 minutes.
- Students are expected to wait at the stop for at least 15 minutes if the weather is bad – “bad” weather means **VERY HEAVY** rain or snow.
- If told a replacement bus is on its way students are expected to wait until the bus arrives.
- In the event of absence from school due to buses parents must ring the school.
- **Dorset School Transport contact number is 01305 221704.**

## Pedestrians

- Students must be considerate to other pedestrians at all times, especially when using narrow pavements in the town. (This means giving way to elderly people, people with young children, pushchairs, wheelchairs etc).
- Students must NOT walk up or down Fleet Street unless they live there. The only pedestrian routes to and from the town are via the footpath through the Memorial Playing Fields, or the footpath through Monmouth Gardens to Tunnel Road.
- Students should cross Hogshill Street at the zebra crossing, and Tunnel Road using the refuge near the Beeches junction. If it is necessary to cross in any other location students should apply road safety principles.
- Students should use pavements wherever they exist and not walk out onto the highway. They should be particularly careful in those places where pavements are very narrow or non-existent (e.g. North Street).
- On dark winter days you are strongly encouraged to wear additional reflective strips on your school coats.

**“My son enjoys being at his school  
and enjoys learning”  
Parent Survey**

## Cyclists

- It is the responsibility of students who cycle to school to make sure their cycles are roadworthy (brakes, bell etc).
- All students who cycle to school must wear a safety helmet.
- In winter, when needed, their cycles must have lights in working order.
- During the day cycles must be padlocked to the racks outside Sandhurst until the journey home.
- Cyclists should use Fleet Street to access the town (not the footpath) and should exercise great care along the narrow and congested roads in the town centre.
- In winter Hi-Viz vests are recommended to be worn over school coats and reflective strips on bikes.

## Students Brought to School by Car

- Students must be **dropped and collected in town or in the Tunnel Road lay-by** next to Monmouth Gardens and walk into school via these side streets.
- For safety reasons Tunnel Road bus park is for school transport only and should **NOT be used by parents/carers at the start and end of the school day**
- In exceptional circumstances students can be dropped off at the Tunnel Road car park entrance before 8.30am, after 3.50pm only.
- All drivers must obey the 20mph restrictions in the town and 10mph on the school drive way.

## Students Driving Themselves

- Students should use the Fleet Street car park.
- No student may drive to/from school without seeking prior permission from the Head of Sixth Form and providing their registration number and proof of valid insurance.

# General Principles

## Behaviour

Through the overall school aims and core values we strive to develop a trusting and caring environment, based upon mutual respect and understanding where all people are treated fairly. The school ethos is based on these aims and around the qualities of care, courtesy, consideration and common sense.

## Responsibilities

**Students** are expected to:

Behave in an orderly, purposeful and sensible manner at all times.

Show courtesy and respect to all members of the school and visitors to the school. Be thoughtful, helpful and understanding of each other at all times.

**“Thank you for all the good things that you do”**  
*Parent Survey*

**Parents** are expected to:

Be aware of the school's Pupil Behaviour Policy (available on the school website) and actively support it, discussing any problems with the staff, Headteacher or Chair of Governors if necessary.

**Staff** are expected to:

Set high standards of social behaviour, be polite, well-disciplined and consistent. Listen to students, making it clear through their response that students' comments and reactions matter. Recognise that good classroom behaviour follows good practice in teaching and learning. Seek every opportunity to explain and reinforce the code of acceptable behaviour, dealing fairly and firmly with those who do not maintain the high standards expected of them.

**Governors** are expected to:

Refer all matters regarding discipline to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors who will discuss these matters together and with the staff if necessary. Be familiar with the school policy and actively support it.

## School Trips and Visits

The agreed rules apply to all students. Staff will deal firmly and fairly with misbehaviour wherever it occurs. A record of incidents will be kept and will inform future participation. Incidents of serious misbehaviour on school visits will always be reported to parents, and may result in permission to take part in future trips being withdrawn.



## Transport to and from school

The school will always support providers and DC in dealing with transport-related behaviour incidents. If a student is behaving poorly, the company has the right to remove that child, with notice, for a fixed period.

**“Both my son and daughter enjoy school which is the most important thing”**  
*Parent Survey*

## The Headteacher

Incidents reported to the Headteacher are considered serious. The Headteacher will consider appropriate sanctions in consultation with colleagues and further investigation if necessary. The Head reserves the right to place a student in an after school detention, with appropriate notice if this is considered necessary.

## Suspension

Wherever possible the Student Support and Guidance Centre (SSGC) is used for student withdrawal / internal suspensions before the Headteacher considers a formal suspension. In very serious cases, and in accordance with local and national policies, it may be necessary to suspend a student. The suspension will either be for a fixed period, or permanently, with parents' right of appeal to the Governing Body. N.B. A one day suspension is mandatory for first time smoking/vaping offences.

# Code of Conduct

**B**ehave in a positive, courteous and respectful manner and live out our core values (ASK)

**E**xpectations of you are high. Ensure you try your very best to meet them.

**A**ll requests by staff must be respected. Listen and respond positively.

**M**onitor your own performance and set yourself challenging and realistic targets.

**I**ndividuals count, so try to understand other people's point of view.

**N**ever forget the safety and well being of others – keep to the left and move quietly and courteously around school.

**S**tart and finish each term positively, building on your successes and addressing your weaknesses.

**T**ake pride in our school – keep it clean and tidy, don't drop litter or eat in classrooms or corridors.

**E**xtend yourself – make the most of your opportunities at school and rise to challenges.

**R**espect the rights of others to learn and of your teacher to teach.

**“Your staff know the pupils well and are able to support them effectively”**  
*Ofsted*

**“The management team always appear to be great role models running a good, safe ship”**  
*Parent Survey*



**“I greatly appreciate the caring community nature of the school”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“Very pleased and impressed with the school overall”**  
*Parent Survey*

# School Rules

**Adhere to the expectations, guidance and rules found in your Handbook and displayed in classrooms**

## **Beaminster Code of Conduct and rules:**

- Our school values
- 4 classroom rules
- Uniform and appearance expectations
- Daily routine, rules and expectations
- Student guides.

## **You should always:**

- Come equipped for all lessons ready to learn
- Meet all deadlines and be punctual
- Be polite and positive
- Set a good example
- Fulfil your potential and strive for excellence.



## **Move around the school sensibly and with consideration:**

- Remove outdoor clothing on entering the building
- Keep to the left in corridors and on stairs
- Walk rather than run and keep entrances and exits clear
- Allow staff, school visitors and senior students 'right of way'
- Respect your environment – keep it clean and litter free
- Eat in the Canteen, or outside, not in classrooms or corridors.
- Do not shout/scream or make unnecessary noise.

**“The school listens to me when I have queries about my child and/or her happiness”**  
*Parent Survey*

## **The following items should not be brought into school:**

- Mobile phones (unless deposited in secure box in Reception)
- Hand held music or other electronic devices and cameras
- Controlled substances and/or associated items (excluding personal medication which should be handed in to the Welfare Officer. Inhalers may be carried)
- Gum
- Tippex
- Knives or other items considered a weapon
- Fiddle toys (unless issued by a member of staff).

**“Risk assessments are detailed and proportionate”**  
*Ofsted*

## **Students must remain on the school site. The following areas are out of bounds:**

1. Off site – unless a supporting note is shown or you are a Year 11 Prefect (all Prefects must sign in and out at Reception)
2. Fleet Street as a route to and from school (unless your house is on it)
3. The Sports Hall, the area around it and the 3G pitch and Mountjoy School site
4. The car parks and paths leading to them
5. Areas around the swimming pool building and gym (thoroughfare only)
6. Top fields by the bus park and grassed area behind the DT block
7. For lower school students - the steps and grassed areas up to Mountjoy School
8. Area surrounding the cricket pavilion, stores and long jump pits
9. Area around the Science block, around the tennis courts and the tennis hut
10. The school field (October half term to start of Summer Term)
11. Beyond the red/yellow lines half way down the field (Summer)



**“My child is very happy at Beaminster and really loves most teachers”**  
*Parent Survey*

**NB: No student should be on the school site before 8.30am or after 3.40pm (unless part of a supervised extra-curricular activity).**

# School Rules

## Drugs and Alcohol

The possession or use of controlled drugs, and possession or consumption of alcohol is strictly forbidden in school, on school premises, during school activities or on the journey to and from school. Contravention of this rule will automatically lead to a fixed period of suspension, and could lead to permanent suspension.

**“Discipline levels are good and the school has a safe and friendly atmosphere”  
Parent Survey**

## Smoking/Vaping

All school premises are no smoking/vaping zones. Smoking/vaping, being in possession of cigarettes, matches, lighters or any other smoking/vaping related items is strictly forbidden in school, on school premises, during school activities or on the journey to and from school. Contravention of this rule, including association with those who are smoking/vaping, will automatically lead to a fixed period of suspension.

## Truancy

Registers are taken at the start of the day and the beginning of every lesson. In the event of a fire we must be able to ensure that we can properly account for all the students, staff and visitors who may be on site.

On the rare occasions when it is thought that a student may be truanting from school, parents will be informed as soon as possible that their child has gone missing from the school premises without permission, and the Police will be contacted.



## Personal Property

The school can take no responsibility for any loss, damage or theft of valuables or personal property brought into school.

**“Pupils’ progress in Physics, Chemistry and Biology has been strong in recent years”  
Ofsted**

## Valuables should not be brought into school.

Mobile phones, cameras and other electronic devices such as MP3/4 players **will** be confiscated if seen during school hours and a parent/carer required to come into school for the item to be returned.

ALL items that are brought into school must be **clearly and permanently marked** with the student’s name. Named items that are handed in will be returned to the owner. Students must take responsibility for looking after their own belongings and lockers are available.

**“In general communication between school and parents is good”**

Dangerous items must not be brought in to school under any circumstances. Such items include laser torches, penknives, guns, air pistols and replica weapons. Contravention of this rule will automatically lead to a fixed period of exclusion and police involvement.

Any accidental breakages or damage to school property must be reported to a member of staff immediately. In cases of non-accidental damage or breakages, parents/carers of the student(s) involved will be expected to contribute towards the cost of any repair or replacement. This includes any damage to fire alarms and/or fire extinguishers.

## UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

**We expect all students to comply with the uniform and appearance information on pages 35-37, and all parents/carers to support the school in this.  
Any requests to temporarily vary uniform must be accompanied by a Doctor’s note.  
We reserve the right to provide alternative uniform, isolate, or send a student home if they do not comply with this policy and expectations.**

# What Happens If ...?

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I ...

### Arrive late to school?

You need to sign in at Reception on arrival. You will be asked for a note to explain why you are late. You must provide this on the day. If you are late on 3 occasions in a term a letter will be sent home.



### Arrive late to lessons?

You are expected to go sensibly and quietly from one lesson to the other in the 5 minutes allocated for this purpose. You should not use this time to socialise. There are therefore very few excuses for arriving late. If you do arrive late, apologise and give a reason (supported by a note). The number of minutes late is logged and you will be asked to make up the time lost in a detention. If you are consistently late your Head of Year will send a letter home to your parents.

### Come to school out of uniform?

Your Teacher/Tutor/Head of Year will need a note of explanation from your parents. You will then be sent to the SSGC to get an alternative or may be given a uniform pass (which you need to show staff if asked).

### My appearance is not acceptable?

Your Tutor/Teacher will ask you to remove/rectify the problem and confiscate items as necessary. You will receive a detention for this. If you are unable to, or refuse to comply, then you will be sent to your Head of Year who will contact home and/or isolate you until such time as you meet our expectations. If you have more than one item confiscated you will not have it returned at the end of the day. Your parents will be asked to come into school to collect it. Further confiscated items will result in further detentions as well as loss of privileges.

### Don't do my homework?

You will be asked to attend a departmental homework support session at lunchtime. If you do not attend, you will be given a lunchtime detention. Non-completion of homework on a regular basis, will result in us contacting your parents and making arrangements for you to catch up after school.

### Forget my equipment, books or other kit?

You will be given a formal warning and detention. If a pattern of poor organisation becomes evident, we will direct you to attend lunchtime catch-up clubs and contact your parents.

### Bring in contraband items?

Mobile phones and other electronic devices are not allowed during school hours. If brought in for travel safety they should be deposited in Reception at the start of the day for safety. If seen during school hours you will have the item confiscated and your parents will have to collect it. All other contraband items will be confiscated and returned to you or your parents at the school's discretion.

### Go out of bounds?

You will be given a detention and your parents will receive a letter informing them you were somewhere you were not supposed to be.

### Smoke/Vape

If you are caught smoking/vaping, with smokers/vapers, or are in the possession of any items associated with smoking/vaping e.g. tobacco/lighter/vape oil etc. you will be suspended for one day. If you repeat the offence it will result in the loss of a day's holiday, then a disciplinary hearing with the Governors.

**"I have nothing but positive things to say about Beaminster School"**  
**Parent Survey**

# What Happens If ...?

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I ...

### Miss lessons/truant?

You will be formally recorded as a truant and your attendance will be closely monitored. Your parents will be contacted and your name will be passed to the Attendance Team.

### Am rude to a member of staff?

This will depend on the circumstances and what you do or say. It can mean isolation and may ultimately lead to a formal suspension. Whatever the circumstances your parents will be contacted.

### Misbehave in lessons?

You may receive a formal warning and be given a detention. If you continue you will be moved to another class or removed by the Pastoral Support Officer (PSO) and we will write to your parents. You may also lose some of your free time.



### Misbehave out of lessons?

You may receive a detention. You may also lose some of your free time or could be excluded depending on the seriousness of your poor behaviour.

**"I always find visiting Beaminster School a good experience and the teachers are warm and approachable!"**  
*Parent Survey*

### Use my mobile, or it goes off during school hours?

In line with our On Site Out of Sight policy your phone will be confiscated and a parent/carer will need to come and collect it. Should you need to contact home urgently during the day (not to make social or domestic arrangements) you can do so from a school phone, just come to Reception.

## WHEN MIGHT I BE ...

### Isolated

If you behave very poorly outside of lessons, or in a lesson and are removed by our Pastoral Support Officer or a senior member of staff.

### Suspended

For smoking/vaping (or with smokers/vapers), for consistently poor behaviour or for a single dangerous or unacceptable act (e.g. fighting or swearing at a member of staff).



### Brought in front of the Governors

For persistent, poor behaviour over a period of time or a single act involving controlled substances.

### Permanently suspended

For consistent, unacceptable behaviour over a sustained period of time or for a single act involving the supply of controlled substances.

**REMEMBER – YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN BEHAVIOUR.**

**HELP MAKE BEAMINSTER SCHOOL A POSITIVE PLACE TO LEARN!**

**"I feel very positive about Beaminster School today"**  
*Parent Survey*

# Mobile Phones

Beaminster School is a place of learning, where all students and adults should feel free to carry out their business without fear of bullying, without fear of being photographed or filmed without their permission, and without fear of having their learning disrupted.

**Therefore, we do not allow students to use mobile phones in our school**

**This includes at break times, lunch time and while on school premises at the start and end of the school day  
If seen during school hours mobiles **WILL** be confiscated**

If a **student chooses** to use a mobile during the school day, or have it visible in any way, they are **choosing to have it confiscated** by any adult in the school. If a phone is confiscated it will not be returned to the student. A parent or carer will be required to collect it from Reception.

If a **student needs to contact home during the day**, or in case of emergency, they may come to Reception and use a school telephone. (Please note, calls should only be for essential, school-related purposes, not to make social arrangements or for other personal reasons).

**Students must never contact parents or carers by mobile during the school day.**

**Parents/carers should not contact or text students on their mobiles during the school day.**

If a student is unwell they should tell their teacher who will send them to one of our Welfare Assistants. The decision about whether or not to contact home will then, and always, be made by an adult.

If, during the school day, a student chooses to contact parents/carers or anyone else via a text message or phone call, or if a photograph has been taken using a phone, they will risk a fixed term suspension.

**Under no circumstances is it permissible to take a photograph of any member of the school community**, adult or student, without permission. This is a serious infringement of another person's rights and there may be serious consequences for such an action.

We do recognise that some parents/carers may wish students to have a mobile or other electronic equipment for use on their journey to and/or from school. Any electronic devices must be **turned off from 8.30am-3.45pm** and handed in to Reception, or switched off and kept out of sight in bags.

Mobiles should be handed in to Reception for safekeeping during the day, and collected again at 3.30pm. Phones may not be used until students are **off the school premises**.

Please note that the school accepts **no responsibility** for loss/damage to any electronic device. If students choose to bring electronic equipment onto the premises it is entirely at their own risk. If lost or damaged, the school will not be held liable for any replacement or repair.



**Mobile phones are banned from the classroom**



**Camera phones prohibited**



# Uniform and Appearance

## Why do we have school uniform?

We believe that a smart, practical school uniform serves a number of important functions:

- it develops a feeling of self esteem
- it does much to eliminate feelings of inequality
- it projects a positive image of the school.

Our school uniform combines practicality and affordability with both traditional and contemporary style. It is simple and helps minimise some potential health and safety problems, as well as promoting inclusion and equal opportunities.

The guidance we give on appearance and uniform ensures that parents, students and staff are clear about how all students should present themselves. We believe this clarity of expectation saves time and reduces conflict and arguments for both parents and teachers.

If you have some temporary problem with uniform a written note from you will help Year Heads and staff in the SSGC to provide an alternative at school. However, the school reserves the right to send students home to change if they do not meet our uniform and appearance code and expectations and will hold a number of clean uniform items for students to wear if they arrive out of the appropriate school dress.

**All items of school uniform must be clearly and permanently marked with the owner's name.**

**We are proud of our school. Our school uniform helps to project this positive image both in school and in the wider community**

**"Lovely family feel when we visited"  
Parent Survey**

Other than the school crest no motifs on any garment will be accepted. If purchasing uniform items from high street retailers, please check that the style and cut comply with our school uniform requirements as specified and the uniform items available from our school supplier. These are the only style/cut that we will accept.

The school has a clear policy for assisting parents who may have difficulty in purchasing the required items. For confidential advice about help with uniform costs please contact the school office.

## Uniform Supplier

Reminder: Free school meals students will be issued with an annual discount code (currently £35) against the cost of school uniform.

All uniform can be purchased direct from Kitz UK Ltd: <http://kitzuk.co.uk>

Apart from a few items of second hand uniform that may sometimes available we do not hold any uniform in stock, all uniform should be ordered directly from the suppliers (there is a link on the school website).

## Sixth Form

There are other arrangements for older students that are set out in the notes we publish for them.



# Uniform and Appearance

Please remember to **clearly and permanently mark all items** with the owner's name. All items of uniform are available from our on-line supplier [www.kitz.co.uk](http://www.kitz.co.uk) School crested items are only available through the school supplier.

**"Beaminster is a friendly and good school"**  
*Parent Survey*

## Shirt and Tie

**Plain white long sleeved shirt with stiff pointed collar**

**The appropriate house tie (only available from school supplier)**

- Shirt to be 'formal', standard/school, cotton/polyester (not flannel or linen etc). Top button must be done up, tails/bottom tucked into trousers/skirt at all times, sleeves rolled down
- Clip-on tie to be worn at all times (top button done up) and at the appropriate length/style. Its fixed construction/design should not be altered in any way
- Undergarments should not be visible beneath shirt (i.e. plain white T-shirt vest with no logos to provide additional warmth/protection is acceptable as long as the V-neck jumper is also worn).
- Short sleeve shirts are optional for the Summer Term only

## V-neck jumper with school crest

**Black, school V-neck jumper with crest (only available from school supplier)**

- Must be worn at all times (apart from during the Summer Term)
- No other jumpers or alternative tops allowed (e.g. hoodies, sweatshirts or cardigans etc).



## Standard School Trousers/Skirt

**Plain black full length school trousers or black pleated skirt (to be purchased from Kitz)**

- The standard pleated school skirt is to be of modest length and not figure hugging. No shorter than 2 inches above the top of the knee and no longer than mid-calf length. No other style is permitted. Please purchase from our school supplier
- Standard school trousers must not be excessively flared, long/short tight/skinny or considered extreme in fashion. Please purchase from our school supplier
- No jeans or denim-type material, cords, chinos, leggings, shorts, ¾ length, multi-pocketed, or tracksuit style is permitted
- Belts are to be black and a max of 5cm wide with a small, discreet buckle.

**"I do like the school very much"**  
*Parent Survey*

## Shoes/Socks/Tights

**Black leather, polishable shoes of a safe and supportive style**

- Heel height should not exceed 3cm, with a sensible sole appropriate for all indoor and outdoor floor surfaces
- Socks should be black (not patterned) worn with trousers
- Tights to be plain black, not patterned or textured
- Trainers/'trainer style' or skate shoes, suede shoes, boots, canvas/ballet style, sling back, open toed shoes are not appropriate
- Trainers may only be worn when taking part in a sporting activity.

**"Thank you"**  
*Parent Survey*

## Coat and outdoor garments (scarves, hats, gloves, bags etc)

**The school crested, reversible coat/fleece only**

- No other coat is permitted – All students are expected to have a school coat as it will be required for going on any school trip or visit (only available from school supplier)
- Any non-school gloves/hat/scarf should be plain and dark in colour (preferably black). Scarves must be straight 'college' style only (no large pashmina types permitted). School bags – preferably dark in colour, but must be suitable for school use (e.g. rucksack style, no 'fashion' handbags).

# Uniform and Appearance

## PE Kit

All items of PE clothing are available from our on-line school supplier (school crested items are only available through the school supplier).

- White (boys) crested PE tops
- Black (girls) crested PE tops
- Black school crested hoodie
- Black shorts or skort
- White trainer socks
- Trainers – suitable for indoors (non-marking soles) and outdoor use (court/track/field)



## Additional items

- Reversible black and white rugby shirt
- Black and white hooped sports socks
- Boots – with aluminium studs for rugby
- Gum shield
- Shin pads



## Optional PE items (All)

- Plain dark tracksuit bottoms (no zips)
- Black cycling shorts (worn under shorts)
- Boot bag / kit bag
- 3/4 leggings



## Jewellery

**One pair of plain studs or sleepers (one in each ear)**

**A plain wrist watch**

- Studs or sleepers to be worn in the ear lobe only (not in the upper or inner part of the ear). Sleepers to be no larger in size than a 5p coin. No 'dangly' earrings, stretchers or bars allowed
- No other rings, bands, necklaces, bracelets, visible piercings (e.g. nose/lip/eyebrow/tongue studs or rings) or 'decoration' permitted (and may not simply be covered with a plaster). 'Hidden' piercings may need to be removed for PE
- All new piercings are to take place in the summer holidays (to allow the necessary healing to take place) so they can be safely removed for PE lessons.

## Hair and Make-up

- **Hair is to be tidy, of 'business-like' appearance and natural in colour – not dyed**
- **Discreet make-up - for Years 9, 10 and 11 only**
- **Nail varnish is not allowed**
- Hair must not be extreme in style / length / decoration or contain patterns or lines
- Boys must remain clean shaven
- No make-up for Years 7 and 8
- Hair bands / ties / scrunchies are to be black and plain

We do sometimes have a small stock of second hand items available please contact the school if you wish to view them.

**"My son has settled in well to school life at Beaminster"  
Parent Survey**

# Sixth Form

We operate a very successful and well-established combined Sixth Form with the Sir John Colfox Academy in Bridport. Our students are high achievers and progress on to some of the top universities in the country, including Oxford and Cambridge and a broad range of courses including medicine and veterinary medicine.



The Sixth Form

We work in partnership with other agencies, schools and universities to ensure that our students have wide ranging opportunities. Our aim is that all our students make the very most of their abilities and are well prepared for the journey ahead.

We have a dedicated Student Progression Officer who successfully supports students in gaining apprenticeships - including highly coveted places at Augusta Westlands - employment or embarking on gap year travels, although the majority of our students go on to university, including Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities. The latest range of official statistics show that our students make excellent progress when compared to other students nationally.

**“Sixth Form students enjoy the range of courses and opportunities you offer them through the joint arrangement with the Sir John Colfox Academy”**  
*Ofsted*

While A levels are demanding, we also seek to challenge and extend our students, for example, through our very successful Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This provides excellent evidence for students when they make university applications, and is cited by many top universities as being a deciding factor in a student's application. We also offer Core Maths and Financial Services, and have excellent links with Bournemouth, Plymouth, Falmouth and Exeter Universities.



We strongly believe that our students benefit from the personalised approach that a small Sixth Form can offer, combined with the widening of experiences, opportunity and horizons that our partnership brings. We know all our students well, and this in-depth knowledge about individual students, gained over 5 years, ensures that we can continue to support them and ensure that they get the best possible outcomes.

Students joining us from outside integrate well into the friendly environment. Students are assigned specialist Sixth Form Tutors who act as mentors to guide and support them throughout their Sixth Form experience.



# Sixth Form

Involvement in the school and wider community is very important to us and students have opportunities to become involved through schemes such as paired reading (working with our younger students to help them improve their reading) and “give back” time which, for example, sees Sixth Formers helping out in classes or even at the local lunch club.



The Sixth Form

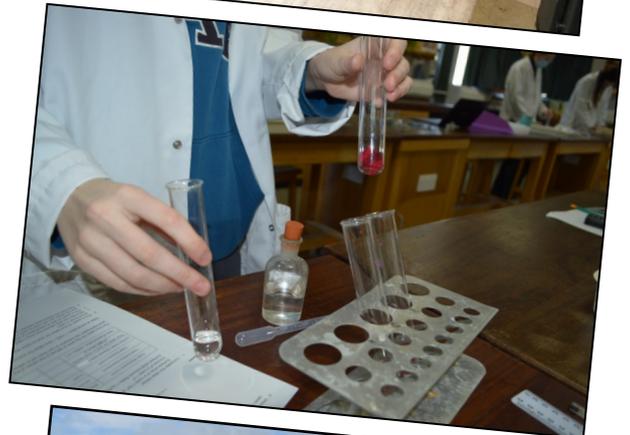
We have an exciting link with Yeovil College to enable us to offer a range of vocational qualifications and courses to our students post 16 and these numbers continue to grow. Students complete the “learning” at Yeovil College, but also benefit from the continued support of school staff two days a weeks.

**“Sixth Form has a great atmosphere along with a hard working ethic. The link with Colfox is great, and it’s hard to imagine not being integrated now”**  
*Year 13 Beaminster 6th Form Student*



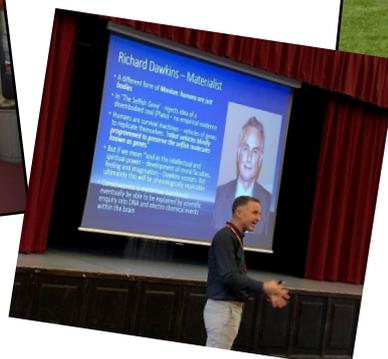
Our Art and Photography students benefit from residential trips to Falmouth and St Ives, and our Biology and Geography students participate in field trips.

For full details about courses, specific entry requirements and more information about our Sixth Form, please see the Sixth Form Prospectus which is available on the school website, or contact Mr See, Head of Sixth Form.



**“Pupils are offered courses which prepare them for the widest range of career pathways, including entry into the best universities”**  
*Ofsted*

**“It is quite important my child attends university if that is what she wishes to do”**  
*Parent Survey*



# Sixth Form Trips and Events

**“Rationale for the curriculum design recognises entry requirements for training and employment opportunities nationally and internationally”  
Ofsted**



**The Sixth Form**

Just some of the things that have happened in our 6th Form:

New Sixth Form Parent information evening  
National Chemistry Conference  
New York trip  
Poetry and Art workshops with Annie Freud  
Applying to University information evening  
Trip to India  
NCS volunteering opportunities  
Student Finance visit for students and parents  
Employability Fair  
Camps International trips to Borneo, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Tanzania  
RAG week and talent show  
World Book Day  
A Level Art and Photography Exhibition  
Holocaust Ambassadors visit Auschwitz  
Bryanston Careers Conference  
Art residential  
Iceland trip  
UCAS conference, Bournemouth  
Damon Hill karting trials and race  
Two teams entered in the British Schools Karting Championships  
Biology field trip to Leeson House  
Spectroscopy visit to Bath University  
Art trips to Bath  
Geography residential field trips  
Theatre trips  
A range of invited speakers for tutorial sessions  
Summer Ball  
School play  
Music and Drama  
Amnesty International events and workshops

Visits by specialist providers plus a huge number of cake sales and other fund-raising events to raise money for various charities supported by the school.

**“We like the school and are pleased with the choice of Sixth Form”  
Parent Survey**



# Inclusion

Beaminster School has a well-deserved reputation for the quality of the support offered to all our students on an individual basis.

**“You have a strong commitment to inclusion”**  
*Ofsted*

Our aim is to ensure that every student can attain realistic and challenging goals, whatever barriers to learning they may have.

**“Extremely impressed by SEN support provided during discussion at parents’ evening and the approach of SEN staff and of teachers in tailoring lessons to the way the child works ”**  
*Parent Survey*

By focussing on and developing our responsive teaching we aim to meet the needs of all students, including those deemed to need stretch and challenge, and those who may need additional support with their learning.

Provision for those students with additional needs includes an excellent team of teaching assistants for both class and individual support, a 1-to-1 specialist literacy teacher, paired reading, small specialised groups for handwriting or speech and language work.

In addition to our Student Support and Guidance Centre (SSGC), we also have a new Wellbeing room available to help support students with their learning. ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) trained staff are able to provide emotional and social skills support for students, and we also work closely with the Prout Bridge Youth Project in Beaminster. There is well-structured and targeted support for those students eligible for the Pupil Premium.



**“The school’s arrangements for keeping pupils safe are fit for purpose and records are detailed and of high quality”**  
*Ofsted*

**“There is a sense of “one big family” and staff seem to really know the students”**  
*Parent Survey*

External support from the local authority and other services includes the Child Health Service (CAMHs), Looked After Children’s Service, Behaviour Support Service (BSS), West Dorset Locality Team, the Police, Drug and Alcohol Advisory Service, Safeguarding and Social Care, Children’s Services and integrated Family Partnership services.

Their advice and input enables us to provide tailored support to a wide range of pupils to help them achieve their full potential.

**“My son has ADHD tendencies and he has had excellent support”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“Disadvantaged pupils who spoke to inspectors were articulate and self-assured. They have great confidence in the school”**  
*Ofsted*

# Student Services

Our Student Services provision ensures that we can provide a central service to respond to the broadest range of student need at Beaminster.

This includes a Wellbeing area to support attendance, medical or SEND issues, an inclusion Learning Hub for planned small group or 1:1 teaching, and the Student Support and Guidance Centre (SSGC).

The SSGC also offers 2nd hand uniform for sale (as available), and can loan uniform and equipment to students if required.



One of our Deputy DSLs (who is also a mental health First Aider) is based in the SSGC.

**“Students explained to inspectors that they receive good quality academic and pastoral help from the Student Support and Guidance Centre. This is a strength of the school”  
Ofsted**

Student needs fall in 8 broad areas, each led by a named colleague with a clear referral route to the many external agencies we work with.

- Student Administration
- Attendance
- Safeguarding
- Learning Support
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)
- Behaviour Support
- Medical Support
- Family Support.



To resource this school-wide service we draw on expertise from staff in the following areas:

- SSGC
- Learning Hub
- SRP (Specialist Resourced Provision)
- SEND Team (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
- Pastoral Team.

This central provision has a number of specialist areas to provide the required interventions:

- Literacy Support Room
- First Aid Room
- Wellbeing Room
- Learning Hub
- Sensory Room
- ELSA Room(s)
- Multi-Agency Room
- Isolation Room
- Nurture Room.



**“My child is generally very happy at the school”  
Parent Survey**

# Extra-Curricular

## Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We see the provision of extra-curricular opportunities as an essential and invaluable part of our work.

Whether they are to do with learning, travel, sport or culture and the arts, new and varied experiences benefit all students and help educate them in the widest sense.

**“Great opportunities to do extra activities  
Parent Survey**



A broader outlook on life, an enjoyment of healthy competition (e.g. on the sports field) increased confidence and co-operation with a tolerance of others are all desirable qualities in young people.

Extra curricular life helps develop all these – as well as being plain good fun!

In addition to offering subject support sessions and revision clinics, the range of lunchtime and after school clubs and activities offered is broad and diverse and all students should be able to find something that interests them!

Our clubs change termly and up to date details can be found on the school website.

**“Overall we are very pleased with the school.  
Children are happy and secure”  
Parent Survey**



# Duke of Edinburgh Award

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The school runs a very successful Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, with students participating in both Bronze and Silver Awards.

This is a programme of personal and social development that is widely recognised by employers and those in education. It builds self-confidence and self-reliance, and students gain a real sense of achievement from completing it. Students discover new skills, interests and talents, and develop their leadership skills and abilities.

There are physical recreation, volunteering and skills sections that students must have completed by February in order to continue on to the Expedition phase which is carried out during the Summer.



# Trips and Visits

## International Links, Visits and Exchanges

Our links with Europe and other parts of the world help to enrich the school and extend the opportunities and educational experiences open to our students.

We have a Ski Trip off to Austria in February and our Sixth Formers are also heading to New York again next year.

Our students have previously gone on extended trips to India, Borneo, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Tanzania and Costa Rica.

Our Netball team have organised a netball tour to Barbados and our Footballers have been to Barcelona.

The Modern Foreign Languages Department usually arranges a trip to France every year, and other residential visits have included trips to Jersey, Cornwall, London, the battlefields of France, Slapton Ley, St Ives and Nettlecombe, along with regular ski trips to Austria.

In addition to all this, we also have regular trips out of school on Stop the Clock days.



**"My son is very happy at Beaminster School and grows in confidence as the years go by"**  
*Parent Survey*



# Sporting Opportunities

Students at Beaminster have access to a wide and diverse range of sporting activities, and we have had several Olympic athletes come and talk to students about their experiences.

Some of the many sporting opportunities available to students include: rugby, basketball, football, tennis, cricket, hockey, netball, gymnastics, Fun Run, trampolining, yoga, badminton, athletics, table tennis, cross country, Sports Leaders award, dance.

**“Since joining Beaminster my daughter has been happy, well looked after and is doing brilliantly! Thank you”**  
*Parent Survey*



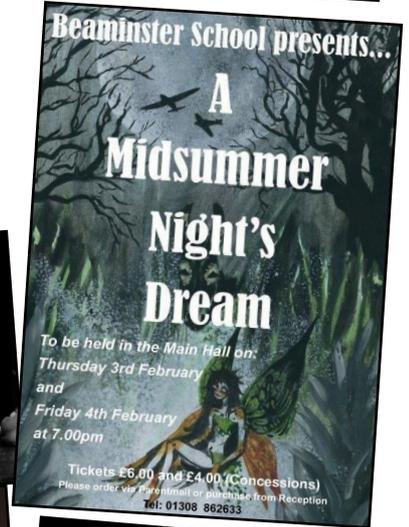
# The Arts

## Music, Drama and The Arts

The school offers a wide range of music groups to suit all tastes including the Orchestra, Saxophone and Flute groups, Student Bands and Choirs, with regular concerts and performances throughout the year.

Other clubs run include Drama, Art, Photography, Subject Drop-in sessions, Yoga, Dance, Science, the Beaminster "Newshounds", Cooking Club, Lego Club.

Recent whole school productions have included "Bugsy" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream", and we are very excited about our next production which is going to be Disney's "Beauty and the Beast".



**"Particularly impressive Music and Drama departments, which have become outstanding in recent years"**  
*Parent Survey*

## A Level Art and Photography

We have regular guest speakers in, and the annual A Level Art and Photography Exhibition held at Bridport Arts Centre, which showcases the fantastic creative talents of our 6th Form students, is always well worth a visit! Our students' work is also displayed during Beaminster Festival.



## Charity and Fundraising

Each year group has a charity day each year, and picks a charity the students would like to support and raise money for. Over the years, the school has raised thousands of pounds for various charities including Cancer Research, Red Nose Day, Sport Relief, Comic Relief, Jeans for Genes, Wrong Trousers, Save the Children, Children in Need and the Asha Deep Foundation in India.



# Activities Week

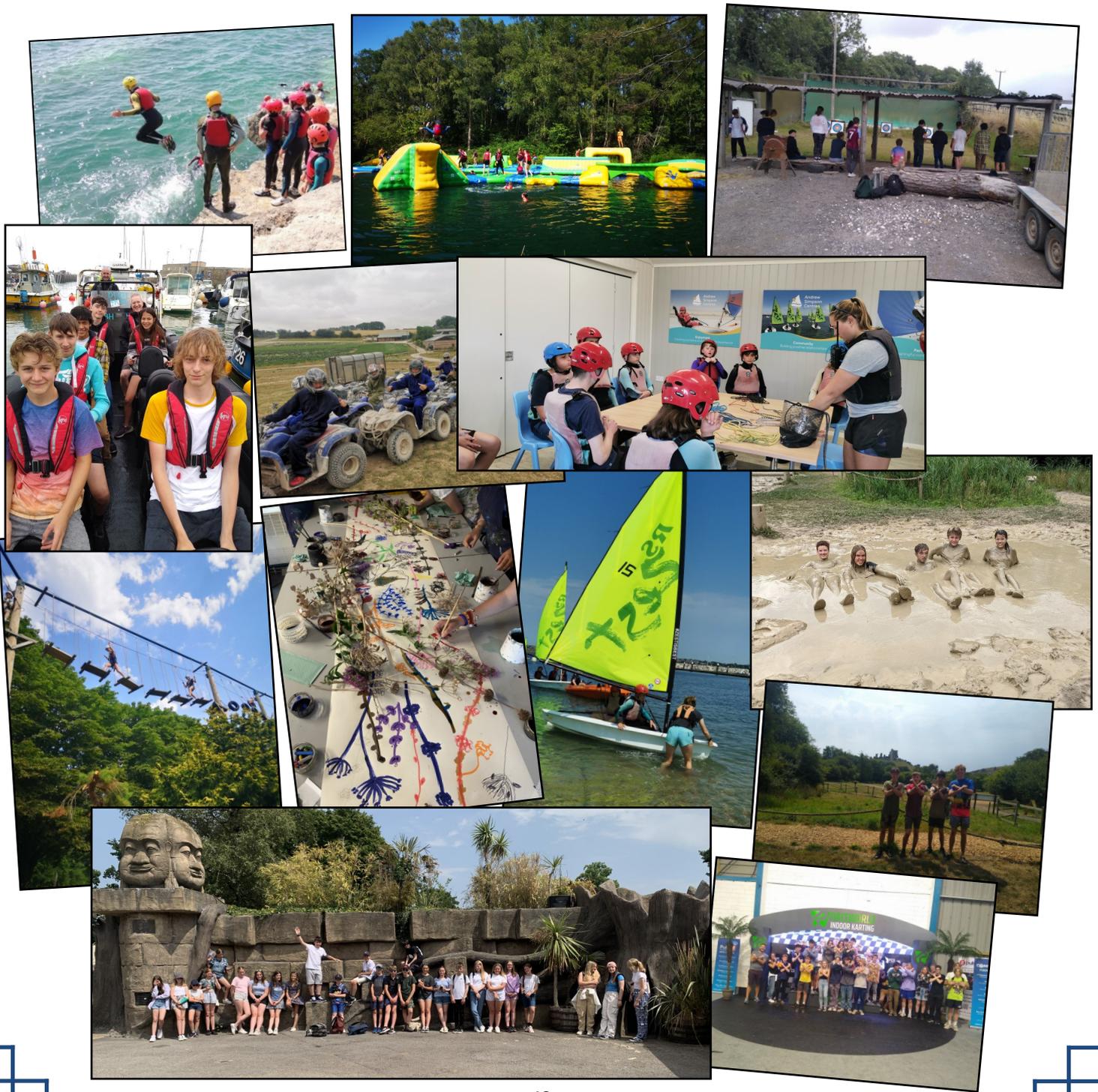
## Activities Week

Each year the school suspends its formal teaching timetable for one week at the end of summer term and staff organise a wide variety of activities, some of which are residential,

Activities Week brings a new dimension to the experiences of all students as many activities work across year groups, which does a great deal to further develop positive relationships between staff and students. Detailed information is issued during the Autumn Term.

Examples of activities offered in the past include residential trips to France, London, Wales, Cornwall, Spain, Jersey and the Scilly Isles, day trips to a wide range of venues and places, along with sailing, golf, football, jewellery making, extreme sports, cookery and creating a school magazine!

**“Beaminster School has a caring, friendly environment and we are really pleased with the different opportunities our daughter is receiving there”**  
*Parent Survey*



# Stop the Clock Days

Alongside the statutory programmes of study set out by the Government, we think that successful learners need wider experiences and opportunities to develop their skills, as well as just knowledge.

Therefore, in addition to Activities Week, we set aside 2 days in the year where the daily timetable is suspended to give students greater time and independence to investigate broader aspects of the curriculum.

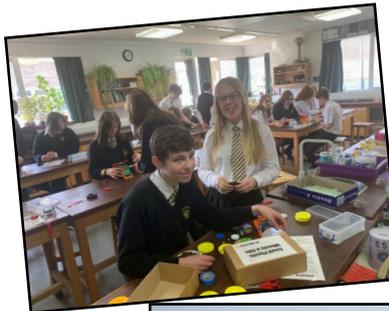
The range of learning varies depending on the year group and may be part of the subject curriculum, a one-off project or skills development such as the Year 10 and 11 revision skills days.

Recent days have seen students at Cheddar Gorge, Corfe Castle, Hurst Castle, Bristol Zoo, Lyme Regis, Dorchester and Bovington Tank Museum, with "hands on" visits in school from the exciting Wonderstruck with their flames and rockets and students building and racing their own little vehicles.

Year 10 and 11 students have had workshops focussing on developing their study skills, with Year 11 students also spending time finishing off their coursework.

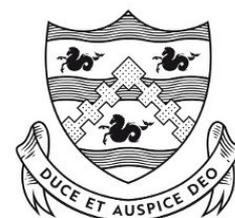


**"We are particularly pleased by how excited and keen to learn our daughter is about her favourite subjects - it is a joy to listen to how animated she is after these lessons!"**  
*Parent Survey*



# Teaching Staff

Mr Richard Barnes	Assistant Headteacher / RS Teacher
Ms Sara Barratt	English Teacher (Maternity Cover)
Mrs Kate Booth	Maths Teacher
Mrs Katie Brent	Head of Art and Media
Mrs Emma Chubb	Science Teacher
Miss Alice Clifford	SRP Lead Teacher
Miss Barbara Coleman	Head of Maths
Ms Linda Croft	English Teacher
Mr John Crossland	Head of Science
Mrs Wendy Da Costa	Technology Teacher
Mrs Siobhan Dinsmore	SENCO
Mrs Karen Dodge	Instructor (Maths)
Mr Kevin Donovan	Head of Year 11 / Careers and Work Related Learning
Ms Jill Forster	Head of Technology
Miss Naomi Gribler	English Teacher (Pupil Premium Lead)
Mr Keith Hales	Headteacher
Mr Paul Haigh	Head of Photography / 6th Form Mentor
Mrs Helen Harding	Maths Teacher / 6th Form Mentor
Miss Lucy Hawkins	Art Teacher
Mrs Sophie Hellyar	Computer Studies Lead Teacher
Mr Sean Hyde	Art Teacher
Ms Rachel Ives	Geography/ RS Teacher
Mrs Jess Jennings	MFL Teacher
Ms Charlotte Jones	Head of English
Mrs Elizabeth Lees	PE Teacher (Maternity Cover)
Miss Jen Lewis	PE Teacher
Miss Ruth Mackay	SEN Teacher
Mrs Fenella Martin	Science Teacher
Miss Katherine Patten	Lead History Teacher
Ms Sophie Perkins	Psychology Teacher / 6th Form
Mr Paul Prendergast	Head of Year 8 / SEN Teacher
Mr Ian Randall	Head of Pastoral Care / History / PE
Mrs Rachael Randall	Head of Year 9 / Maths Teacher / D of E
Miss Susie Rollick	English Teacher (KS3 Lead)
Mrs Rosemary Rychnovsky	Science Teacher (KS3)
Mr James See	Head of Sixth Form / Geography Teacher
Mr Andrew Smith	Head of Music / Performing Arts
Ms Bryony Smith	Head of Year 7 / Lead Drama Teacher
Mrs Laura Spencer-White	English Teacher
Mr Marcus Stevens	Head of Year 10 / Science Teacher
Miss Pippa Tyler	Maths Teacher / 6th Form Mentor
Mr Nicholas Urch	Maths Teacher
Mr James Wagstaff	Head of PE
Mr Colin Wales	Science Teacher
Mrs Sarah Walters	Head of Humanities
Mrs Lisa Walton	Technology Teacher
Mr David Withers	Deputy Headteacher / Safeguarding Lead / Head of Life Studies



Ambition • Service • Kindness

**“The face to face feedback from teachers has been encouraging, perceptive and affirming”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“Senior Leaders have an accurate view of the school and communicate this well to Governors”**  
*Ofsted*

**“At the parents’ evening I really felt that they knew my child and cared, and there were some really lovely connections with her teachers”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“I appreciate the calls from teachers when there are issues to discuss”**  
*Parent Survey*

# Support Staff

Mrs Lorraine Baker	Student Progression Officer / Work Experience Administrator
Mrs Donna Berry	Student Support and Guidance Centre Manager
Mrs Kathy Carter	Technology Technician
Mrs Nicola Chalkley	Office Manager, PA to Head & Head of 6th Form / HR
Mrs Helen Challis	Pastoral Support Officer
Mrs Sharon Channing	Admin Officer (Pastoral) and Welfare Officer
Mrs Kathy Coward	Teaching Assistant
Mr Darrin Donaldson	Caretaker
Mrs Karen Dungate	Cover Supervisor
Mrs Helen Emmett	Exams Manager
Mrs Christine Everley	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Jo Fox	Departmental Teaching Assistant (Science)
Mrs Karen Harris	Teaching Assistant (SRP)
Mrs Belinda Hawkins	Departmental Teaching Assistant (English)
Mrs Jackie Hyde	Departmental Teaching Assistant (Technology)
Mr Ian James	IT Technician
Mr Philip Jeffs	Art/Technology Technician/Instructor
Miss Claire Loveless	Data Officer
Mrs Rachel Meier Fox	Reprographics and Welfare Officer
Miss Hannah Muntz	Science Technician
Mr Wilford Parker	Janitor
Mrs Helen Pinkett	Senior Librarian and Welfare Officer
Ms Kellie Poole	Finance and Business Manager
Mrs Coralie Scarr	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Marilyn Stone	Cover Supervisor / Trips and Visits Administrator
Mrs Lizzie Streatfeild	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Heather Thorne	Admin Officer (Reception)
Mrs Lisa Van Niekerk	Teaching Assistant and Welfare Officer
Mrs Nina Wagstaff	Supervisory Teaching Assistant
Miss Wendy Wallbridge	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mr Charles Woodward	Senior IT Technician
Mrs Annie Wyatt	Senior Science Technician



**“Beaminster is a friendly and happy school”**  
*Parent Survey*



Ambition · Service · Kindness

**“Generally we are very happy with the school and are very pleased we moved to it from her previous school”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“We love Beaminster School from the Ladies in the office to the face that teachers know the children even when they are not in their classes”**  
*Parent Survey*

**Please be aware that phone lines (and staff) do get very busy first thing in the morning**

**Please leave your call until later in the day if at all possible**

# Safeguarding

Ensuring students are safe, happy, achieving and actively participating in the life of the school, the family and community are key aims of every parent and school. At Beaminster we pride ourselves on how well we look after our students whilst they are with us and beyond!

**“Parents recognise that bullying, in any form, is rare at the school. This is confirmed by pupils”**  
*Ofsted*

In addition to their tutor, Head of Year, SSGC staff and, indeed, every other member of staff that students will come into contact with whilst they are at school, there are also specifically designated staff who are fully trained in Child Protection matters. These members of staff are there to ensure all children feel safe both at school and at home:



**Mr Withers**  
Designated Senior Lead (DSL)  
for Child Protection



**Mrs Berry**  
Senior Deputy Designated Lead  
for Child Protection



**Mrs Dodge**  
Deputy Designated Lead



**Ms Bridget Millwood**  
Safeguarding Governor



**Mrs Harris**  
Deputy Designated Lead

**“All Staff and Governors are aware of the risks pupils face and follow clear procedures when they have concerns”**  
*Ofsted*

**“We couldn’t be happier with how Beaminster has allowed our son to settle in, in the best possible way”**  
*Parent Survey*

If a student is worried about their safety or wellbeing, or that of a friend or classmate, then they should speak to any member of staff, or better still find one of the staff named above.

Staff will be able to offer support **no matter what the problem is**. Students (or parents) can always reach the staff named above by contacting school Reception.

## The Safeguarding Team at Beaminster

- Leads high quality practice in safeguarding
- Develops excellent quality assurance and risk assessment systems
- Works effectively in partnership with parents
- Ensures exemplary practice when collaborating with key agencies to safeguard children.

**“The great majority of parents who responded to the online survey, Parent View, believe their child is safe and taught well”**  
*Ofsted*

## Site Security and ID Badges

All visitors to the school are required to sign in and out at Reception. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, and all 6th Form students have photographic badges which they are required to wear at all times when on the school site. This is to ensure that only authorised personnel are on the school site.

Anyone not wearing an ID badge will be asked to report to Reception to sign in, be formally welcomed to the school and given an ID badge. All staff are required have enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance.

# School Governors

**Chair of Governors and Safeguarding Governor**

**Ms Bridget Millwood**

**Vice Chair of Governors**

**Ms Sally Ann Palmer**

## **Chairs of Committees**

Chair of Resources Committee  
Chair of Standards Committee

Mr Robin Amswych  
Ms Bridget Millwood



**“The Governing Body has a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school”**  
*Ofsted*

**“My son is happy at school and doing well”**  
*Parent Survey*

## **Governors**

Mr Robin Amswych  
Rev David Baldwin  
Mrs Nicola Chalkley  
Mr Patrick Fleming  
Mr Keith Hales  
Mrs Helen Harding  
Ms Bridget Millwood  
Mr Gerald Montague  
Ms Sally Ann Palmer  
Miss Katherine Patten  
Mrs C Shead-Jones  
Mrs Elizabeth Smith  
Mr David Solly  
Mr Simon Williams

Co-opted  
Foundation (Ex Officio)  
Co-opted (Support Staff)  
Parent Governor  
Headteacher (Ex Officio)  
Teacher Governor  
Co-opted (Parent)  
Co-opted (Parent)  
Co-opted (Parent)  
Teacher Governor  
Co-opted  
Co-opted (Parent)  
Co-opted (Foundation)  
Co-opted

**“Governors recognised that raising pupils’ aspirations remains a priority for the future”**  
*Ofsted*

**“The majority of lessons seem to be engaging and have a positive impact on learning”**  
*Parent Survey*

**“Governors carefully review the use of the extra (pupil premium) funding”**  
*Ofsted*

## **Associate Governors**

Mr David Withers  
Mr Richard Barnes

Deputy Headteacher  
Assistant Headteacher

## **Clerk to Governors**

Ms Tanya Harley. The Clerk to Governors can be contacted via the school.



# Responsible Use of ICT

## Rules for Responsible Use of ICT

Access to the Internet will only be permitted if you are happy to support this and your parental consent has been given via the consent form page of the blue student registration form. All students receive a copy of our Privacy Notice, outlining how we comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which can also be found on the school website.

Beaminster School offers pupils supervised access to the Internet and email. We strongly believe in the educational benefits of the Internet and email to enable students to explore a wide range of information sources, and to enable them to communicate and collaborate with other learners throughout the world. Although there can be concerns about young people having access to inappropriate material via the Internet, the school takes a range of measures to minimise these risks and we would also ask parents to help, support and guide students with these issues at home.

A filtering system is in operation which restricts access to inappropriate materials, supplemented by an Internet safety programme for all pupils which teaches safe and appropriate behaviours to adopt when using the Internet, email and other digital technologies.

School internet use is supervised and filtered, but families should be aware that some students may find ways to access material that is inaccurate, defamatory, illegal or potentially offensive to some people. As with any other area, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. The school therefore supports and respects each family's rights to decide whether or not to apply for access.

In school, teachers will guide students towards appropriate material. At home, families bear the same responsibility for guidance as they exercise with other information sources such as television, telephones and radio. **For further help and advice about keeping students safe online, we highly recommend parents access the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) website at [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)** A link to this site can also be found on the school website. The provisions of this agreement are listed below. If any student violates these provisions, access to the Internet and/or email will be denied and the student will be subject to disciplinary action following the school's Positive Behaviour Management system.

### 1. Personal Responsibility

Any misuse of the network must be reported to a staff member. Misuse may come in many forms, but is commonly viewed as any message(s) sent or received that indicate or suggest pornography, unethical or illegal requests, racism, sexism, inappropriate language, any use which may be likely to cause offence and other issues described below. Photos stored on school sites must not be copied or shared without the prior, written permission of those in them.

**"Your leaders who have specific responsibilities for safeguarding are clear about their roles and responsibilities"**  
*Ofsted*

### 2. Acceptable Use

The use of electronic services must be in support of education and research in accordance with the educational goals and objectives of Beaminster School at all times.

Use of other networks or computing resources must comply with rules appropriate to that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any United Kingdom or other national laws is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material or material protected by trade laws. Use of commercial activities by for-profit organisations is generally not acceptable.

### 3. Privileges

The use of the Internet and other electronic services is a privilege and inappropriate use will result in that privilege being withdrawn. Students with access to the Internet will be advised by school staff as to proper behaviour and use of the facilities. Beaminster School staff will rule upon inappropriate use and may deny, revoke or suspend usage. All users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. There is a requirement to monitor all emails sent using the school address.

# Responsible Use of ICT

## 4. Services

Beaminster School offers Internet access and makes no warranties of any kind whether expressed or implied, for the network service it is providing. Beaminster School will not be responsible for any damages suffered whilst on this system. These damages include loss of data as a result of delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries or service interruptions caused by the system or elements of the system, or your errors or omissions.

Use of any information obtained via the network or other information systems is at your own risk. Beaminster School specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy of information obtained via its Internet services. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt use of the services by others.

## 5. Security

- Never disclose any personal information (home address/contact details), or those of other students.
- Passwords should not be shared or revealed to anyone else.
- Anyone caught disclosing passwords may have their access denied and may be subject to disciplinary action.
- If a student thinks someone has obtained their password they must contact the IT department immediately.

Security on any computer system is a high priority because there are so many users. If a security problem is identified, a member of the IT staff should be notified at once. A problem should never be demonstrated to another student. All use of the system must be under a student's own username and password unless specifically directed by a member of staff. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the system and be subject to disciplinary action.

## 6. Vandalism

Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy any equipment or data of another user or of any other networks that are connected to the system. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses, the wilful damage of computer hardware, whether connected to the network or not, the deletion of data from its place of storage.

## 7. Online Ordering systems

Students should not use the school Internet for ordering goods or services, or subscribe to any newsletter, catalogue or other form of correspondence via the school Internet, regardless of its nature.

## 8. Email

- Use appropriate language.
- Be brief - few people will bother to read a long message.
- Proofread your message to ensure it is error free and easy to understand.
- Remember that humour and satire are very often misinterpreted.
- Never send or encourage others to send abusive messages.
- Respect the rights and beliefs of others.
- You may be alone with your computer, but what you say and do can be viewed by others.
- Never swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language
- Illegal activities of any kind are strictly forbidden.
- Email is not guaranteed to be private.

Students are expected to use this facility in a responsible manner. Messages relating to, or in support of, illegal activities may be reported to the authorities. The sending or receiving of any email which contains any inappropriate material is strictly forbidden. This material includes, but is not limited to, pornography, unethical or illegal requests, racism, sexism, inappropriate language, any use which may be likely to cause offence. Disciplinary action will be taken in all cases. It is forbidden to send large volume emails (spamming).

## 9. Social Media / Chat Services

- **Always remember that you are a representative of the school on a global, public system.**
- All the guidelines and advice given above should always be considered before and when posting.
- **Students are not permitted to use social media (Facebook, Twitter etc) during school hours.**
- Students are not permitted to use the chat services available on the Internet during school hours.
- Students caught doing this will have disciplinary action taken against them.

# Other Information

## Anti-bullying Policy

We believe that all our students should be free to enjoy their learning and leisure time free from humiliation, oppression, abuse or the threat of it. Bullying, in any form, will not be tolerated. All students should feel safe to report any incidents of bullying and feel confident of support. They can use any of the **#Not-Okay** boxes around the school to report any issues. Parents, staff and students all work together to deal with bullying.

Please contact the school if you suspect there may be a problem — **if we don't know about it, we can't help to resolve it.**

## Equality Policy

Our Equality Policy relates to the nine protected characteristics: Disability, Race, Age, Sex, Sexual orientation (homophobia), Gender re-assignment, Marriage and civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity, Religion or belief. We give careful consideration to equality issues in everything that we do in school, working towards eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act. We are committed to working for the equality of all our staff, children and parents and to meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010.

## Equality Objectives

1. Equality is at the heart of our decision making process.
2. Advance equality of opportunity.
3. Improve curriculum access for all students

Please contact the school office for details of other school policies.

## BSPTA (Beaminster School Parent Teacher Association)

Our Parents' Association (the BSPTA) organises and runs fund-raising activities (ideas always welcome!) to help provide additional facilities for students that the school might not otherwise have the budget to be able to buy, such as our outdoor table tennis tables (enjoyed by staff and students alike!), and to provide parents with a link to the school.

They also help at many school events, including providing refreshments at parents' evening, concerts and school performances. Everyone understands that we are all busy people and there just aren't enough hours in the day, but if you can help - even just once a year or every other month - or whatever time you can give, it really will be useful! Please come along to meetings, or just support the events - **ALL ARE WELCOME** - grandparents and other relatives too!

**If lots of people are able to give just a little bit of time then all our children will benefit.**

The Beaminster School Christmas Fair has been organised by the Parents' Association for many years and is very well attended. In recent years, the big prize of an iPad has made the raffle a huge success. Ideas for good value local Christmas products, stall ideas, support with organising the fair and help setting up and/or running stalls on the day are always welcome. The aim is to keep raising money for extras that will benefit all students during their time at Beaminster School. Contact details and meeting dates for the Parents' Association can be found on the school website.



**“When necessary, you make brisk referrals to external agencies to provide extra help”**  
*Ofsted*

**“She has always felt cared for at school and part of a community which includes both staff and pupils”**  
*Parent Survey*



**“A fantastic school”**  
*Parent Survey*

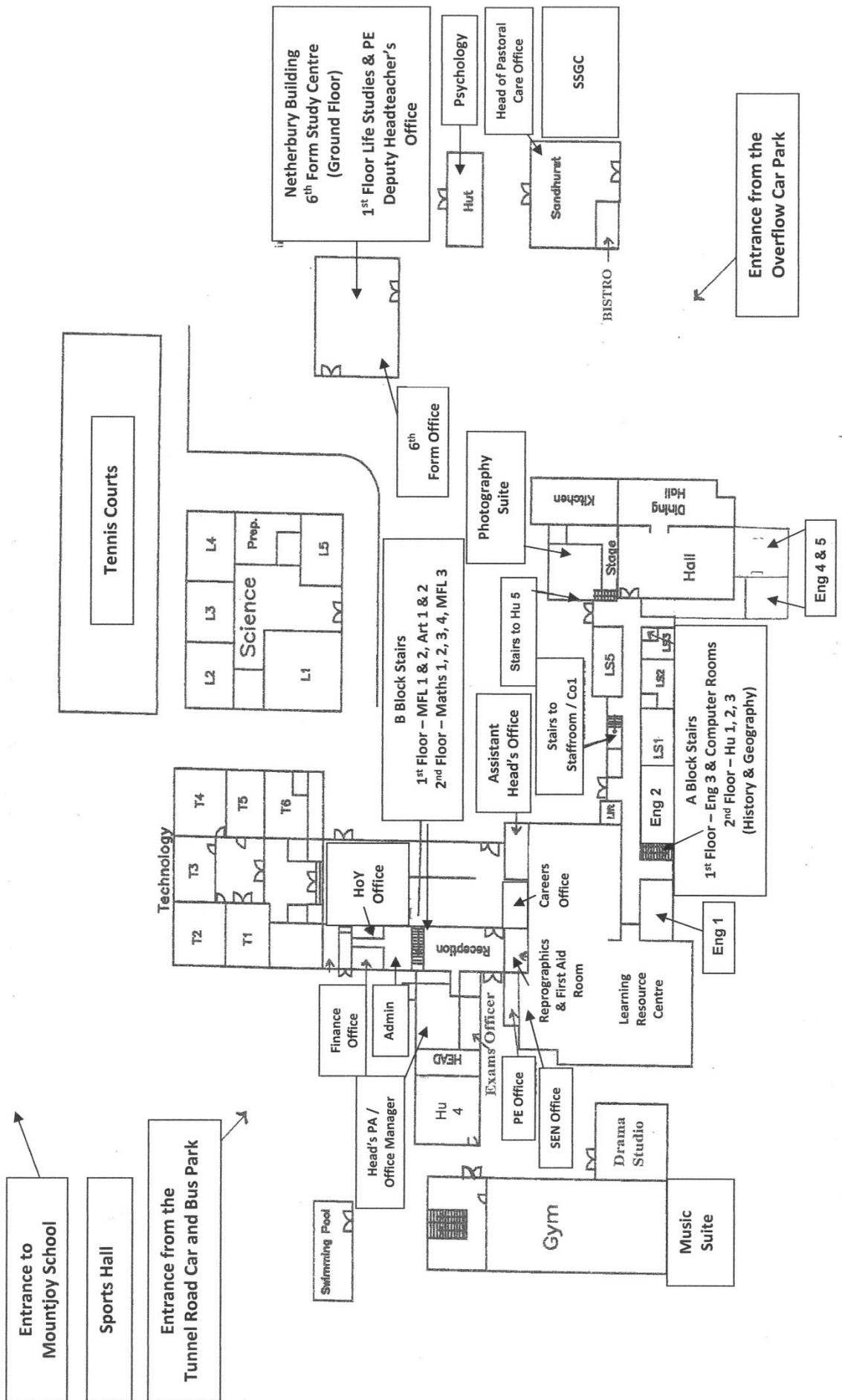
# In Pictures







# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL



# Contact Information



Office hours: 8.30am-4.30pm (4pm Friday)

Tel: 01308 862633

Beaminster School, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3EP

Email: [office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Website: [www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk)

Facebook: Beaminster School

Twitter: @BeaminsterSch



## Absence Line 01308 861917 (available 24hrs)

Please call the Absence Line **as early as possible** to report an absence (and by 10am at the latest) **Briefly and clearly** state the student's **name**, **tutor group** and the **reason for absence**.

The Absence Line is available **24hrs a day** but can get busy at peak times so please do try again!

You need to call in for **each day of absence**.

A call home will be made if no reason for absence has been given.

**Please note that students are NOT required to remain at home for 48hrs following an illness**

As long as students are **not infectious**, it is up to you, as parents/carers, to decide when your child is fit enough to return to school after illness

## School Transport Contact Numbers

Please note that we have NO responsibility for school transport. All queries regarding school transport should be directed to the relevant provider.

Dorset County Transport: 01305 224537

Email: [dt@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:dt@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/web/guest/-/school-bus-passes>

First Wessex: 01305 783645

First Wessex (Mobile): 07866 979781

## IMPORTANT NOTE

The school's Caller ID is withheld ("Caller Withheld").

This is because we are unable to deal with the volume of calls where the 1471 function is used to return a missed call as it is impossible for the office to trace who might have made a particular call.

In case of emergency the school **MUST** be able to contact you quickly, so **please ensure that you have provided us with a contact number that will accept incoming "Caller Withheld" calls.**

**"Beaminster School is fabulous, you encourage children to be themselves and don't force them to fit into stereotypes"**  
*Parent Survey*

**"The praise postcards sent home are a lovely idea and mean a lot to parents when they arrive"**  
*Parent Survey*

