



Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to Ferndown Middle School. I am very proud to be headteacher of a lively and happy school, providing a high standard of education as well as extensive opportunities for all children to engage in.

The school aims are threefold:

- To work effectively with all partners to achieve a **community spirit** that is based on respect for each other.
- To provide an **exciting, challenging and motivating** learning environment for children and staff.
- To set high standards of attainment and **achievement for all children.**

By fostering the positive values of care and co-operation, we provide a secure base for children's education. Children of all abilities and background are encouraged to pursue excellence.

We help equip all children to be resilient and resourceful; supporting them to achieve high standards in all areas of the curriculum, their social relationships and their attitude towards the environment in which they work.

Continuity in education is vitally important. We have close links with our feeder first schools (Ferndown, Parley and Hampreston) and the neighbouring Upper School. These ensure the curriculum is a planned progression of work throughout the three tiers of schooling and one which will meet the needs of the National Curriculum.

Mrs G E Allen BEd (Hons) NPQH
Headteacher



Governors

A warm welcome from all the school governors. Our school is inclusive and all the staff work together to provide a wide variety of opportunities for all children in a safe environment. OFSTED rated our school as good in 2018.

The school is well supported by its governing body, comprised of parents, staff and members of the local community. Governors are critical friends who offer support and advice whilst being involved in the wider life of the school. Governors support the strategic direction of the school, they help manage the finances, are responsible for employing staff and make sure the school operates safely.

Paul Tuttiett
Chair of Governors



School Awards and Achievements

The school achieved a number of national standards including; UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award (Level 2), International Schools Award (intermediate level) and Bronze Eco Award. The school has a fine tradition in sport and we were very pleased to be awarded the Sainsbury's Gold Award in recognition of this.



Curriculum Aims

At Ferndown Middle School we are focussed on identifying the needs of each learner. We aim to provide a wide-ranging and supportive experience to help each child develop:

- A lively enquiring mind with the ability to question, argue rationally, make reasoned choices and pursue intellectual and physical tasks.
- Self-esteem and a caring and supportive attitude towards others.
- A wide range of concepts, skills and knowledge and an understanding of how to use these, together with an appreciation that learning is a life-long process.
- Language and number skills.
- Aesthetic awareness and creativity.
- An understanding of human achievements and aspirations.
- A respect for other people, their languages and beliefs.

“The school provides a rounded and high-quality curriculum. Over their four years at this school, pupils enjoy rich and stimulating activities in a wide range of subjects.”

Ofsted 2018

Curriculum Content

Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 Curriculum Guidelines for parents can be found on the school website under ‘Curriculum.’ These provide outlines of programmes of work that will be followed throughout the year in each subject.

Homework

Children will receive home learning, the amount varying to suit the needs of the individual. Year 5 and 6 children will receive homework for the core subjects of English and Mathematics.

Children in the other two year groups will have a planned homework timetable covering a range of subjects. Homework planners will be issued at the beginning of the school year to help record homework. All homework is also recorded on ‘Show My Homework’ which can be accessed via the school website or using the Show My Homework app.

Parental Help and Support

If you are able to offer help or expertise in any way to further benefit children in the school, it will be greatly appreciated. Parents can help in a variety of ways:

- With resources
- In the library or classroom
- Accompanying educational visits
- Assisting with school projects.

If you are willing to help, please contact the school office. A DBS check will be required.



Assessment

Age Related Expectations

The Department for Education has stated that teaching, learning and assessment should be based on the National Curriculum. Each subject has agreed Age Related Expectations (ARE) for the year group. At Ferndown Middle School we have agreed the objectives to be taught in each year group for all subjects; these are called termly objectives.

Academic Achievements

Judgements are made using a combination of test results and assessed pieces of work, alongside the on-going class work and homework your child produces. The combination of these will enable teachers to have a broad picture of your child's ability. Following these judgements, teachers will moderate work across the subject as well as comparing judgements against other schools.

Year 6 SATs

In Year 6, all children take national standardised tests in English and Maths. These results are reported to parents at the end of Year 6.



Staying Informed

Assessment is a day-to-day process and your child will receive feedback in lessons verbally and written feedback in their books. Your child has been taught to respond to the marking by making corrections, or answering a question posed by the teacher.

Formal Reports

An interim report will be sent termly for all years. In the spring term, a full report for Year 8 will be issued with full reports for Years 5, 6 and 7 in the summer term.

The following assessment terms are used:

- 1) **Working Above** - Children assessed to be working above the expectation have a deep understanding beyond the Age Related Expectation for the time of year.
- 2) **Working At** - Children assessed to be working at the Age Related Expectation have met all the termly objectives and are on track to meet the end of year expectations.
- 3) **Working Towards** - Children assessed working towards the Age Related Expectation are not secure in all the termly objectives but are able to access the taught curriculum.
- 4) **Working Below** - Children assessed working below the Age Related Expectation are not able to access the year appropriate curriculum and are assessed against a previous year.

Parents' Evenings

Parent consultation evenings are held three times a year, in October, January and July. These are an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and attainment.



Clubs

Extra-curricular activities are an important feature of our school and we have a long tradition of offering high quality opportunities and activities outside the usual curriculum. We believe that these activities are an important and exciting feature of school life and contribute enormously to our children's social and academic development, giving children confidence to tackle those parts of the curriculum they may find more difficult.



There is an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities on offer which varies each term. These take place during the lunch hour or after school. The clubs offered incorporate sport, music, design and cultural, religious and social pursuits.

In-School Events

In-school events are a regular feature of our broad and balanced curriculum and cover a wide range of topics, for example visiting speakers, theatre groups and interactive experiences. These provide an opportunity to explore a topic or theme in more detail in an exciting and creative format.

Trips and Visits

An integral part of the curriculum has been the opportunity for children to participate in a variety of day visits and residential courses. Regular trips include:

- Year 5 Visit to Corfe Castle
- Year 5 River Study
- Year 6 Bristol Residential
- Year 7 and 8 Local Adventure
- Year 8 Mill on the Brue Residential
- Year 8 London Residential

Breakfast Club*

We run a successful breakfast club each morning between 7.30am and 8.35am. This is for children across all year groups with a maximum of 20 children and is operated on a first come first served basis. Please book and pay one half term in advance via the school office.

Peripatetic Music Lessons*

Children at Ferndown Middle School are extremely fortunate to have a number of private specialist teachers visiting the school each week, offering tuition in a variety of instruments. We actively support peripatetic music and, in addition to being enjoyable, research shows that playing a musical instrument is an advantage in academic learning.

*The booking forms for breakfast club and peripatetic lessons are in this welcome pack and should be returned to the office with payment.



Rights Respecting School – Level 2

Ferndown Middle School is proud to have been a Level 2 UNICEF Rights Respecting School since December 2016 and actively teaches our children about the rights that they have, under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We also ensure that our children know about their responsibilities (actions) and how these go hand in hand with their rights. We have a Rights Respecting School (RRS) steering group, known as Pupil Voice, which comprises a selection of children from across the school. It is this group which helps to decide on how best to educate the school community about the UNCRC.

As a school, we believe in our children being involved in the school and having the responsibility for developing some of the rules and policies that affect them. Pupil Voice has helped to rewrite the school's Whole School Charter and, along with the School Council, has previously worked hard in creating the Dining Room Charter.

School Council

The school aims to promote the involvement of children in all aspects of school life. Each class selects school council representatives to form part of the School Council. This group meets regularly with staff and governors.

Rewards

We have a system for rewarding effort and attainment made by individuals and groups of children across the

school. The aim is to ensure that children are continually able to gain recognition for their endeavours and feel a sense of self-worth and pride in their achievements. The system of rewards includes:

- House points awarded for outstanding effort and achievement.
- Certificates to recognise effort and achievement.
- Individual awards for effort each term.
- Year 8 individual awards for effort and achievement.

Behaviour and Discipline

Our aim, as detailed in the school's Behaviour Policy available on the website, is to encourage self-discipline, co-operation and respect for others and their property. We expect high standards of behaviour and conduct from our children at all times; this includes break and lunch times.

Behaviour of children outside school, especially on the way to and from school, is equally as important as in school.

Relationships between staff and children are very good and the emphasis is on encouragement rather than punishment. However, when children do misbehave, sanctions may include break time, lunch time or after school detention, extra work or loss of privileges.

“Behaviour and attitudes to learning are consistently good in lessons. Pupils display positive behaviour to learning and are encouraged to express their views and opinions at appropriate times.”

Ofsted 2018



Child Protection

Ferndown Middle School recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care.

Mrs Allen is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Mrs Giddens is the deputy. Both have had specialist training in safeguarding and child protection.

If you have any concerns please contact one of the members of staff above on the school number which is 01202 876556.

Our full Child Protection Policy can be found on our website along with further government guidance and support documentation.

E-Safety

At Ferndown Middle School, we take e-safety extremely seriously. We believe that it is the right of all children to feel safe and secure when using technology. Our E-Safety Policy contains detailed information about how we ensure our children remain safe in their use of technology.



We teach children to use the internet and other technologies safely, and we show them how to behave in an appropriate manner.

It is important to encourage a healthy lifestyle with regard to the use of technology, and teach children about the risks of exposure to inappropriate content or too much time in front of a screen.

We show children how to keep their data and security safe, and we teach them to be critical of the things they see online.

Anti-Bullying

Ferndown Middle School is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our children so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. At Ferndown Middle School, bullying of any kind is not tolerated. If bullying does occur, all members of the school community understand the school's policy and are clear about the part they can play in the prevention and reporting of such incidents.



School Day

Children should arrive at school between 8.15am and 8.35am.

8.45am	Morning Registration and Tutor Time
9.10am	Period 1
10.10am	Period 2
11.10am	Break
11.25am	Period 3
12.20pm	Lunch
1.20pm	Afternoon Registration
1.30pm	Period 4
2.25pm	Period 5
3.20pm	School Ends

Absences

All absences from school must be accounted for by parents, telephoning the school. (This in itself, does not constitute authorisation by the school.) The Attendance Policy on the school website explains this in detail. The school operates an answerphone service to record absences before 8.15am.

Children will be given permission to leave school for medical appointments only if they provide a note from their parents. Permission for absence, other than that caused by illness, is normally granted only for educational reasons and should be sought well in advance. Children leaving or returning during the school day must sign in or out in reception. A note is required from parents if children are to be excused from Physical Education lessons.

Term Time Holidays

Under the guidance from the DFE the school will not grant family holidays during school term time. The school can only grant time off during term time for exceptional circumstances.

Lockers and Homework Diaries

Your child will be provided with a locker and homework diary at the beginning of each academic year for which there is a £5 charge in the first week of term. The locker is a safe place to store their bags and valuable items during the day. *Please note that the loss of a key or homework diary will ordinarily result in an appropriate charge being made for a replacement.*

School Meals



Our caterers are fully aware of the National Healthy Schools guidance and make a selection of hot and cold items available each day. Provision is also made for children to bring sandwiches.

Please note that any foods which are nut based are not allowed in school. No child is allowed off the school premises during the lunch hour without a dated note from a parent on each occasion. If you consider that you are eligible for free school meals, please ask at the school office for details.



First Aid and Medication

The school has a purpose-built First Aid room. Members of support staff, who are designated first aiders, attend to all minor first aid administration resulting from incidents on the school premises.

Further members of the teaching staff are also qualified first aiders and some lunch time supervisors have first aid qualifications.

However, it must be stressed that the school does not employ a nurse. Therefore if further medical attention is required, you will be contacted, asked to collect your child and advised to seek specialist advice. In case of an emergency an ambulance will be called.

Contact

Children who are unwell during the school day can become very distressed if parents cannot be contacted. Therefore it is vital that we have up to date contact details. Please keep us informed of any changes to contact numbers or addresses during the year.

We also ask that you keep us informed of your child's medical needs (including any allergies) and agree with school how we can help.

Administration of Medication

Medicines can only be administered if a parental consent form, available from the school office, is completed. This is also required for children who self-administer an asthma inhaler. Please only send medication to school if it is vital that it is given to your child during the school day, rather than before or after school.

We are unable to administer any medication containing aspirin or ibuprofen unless it has been prescribed by a doctor.

All medication must be clearly labelled with your child's name and must be provided in the original packaging with the manufacturer's or doctor's instructions on dosage. If your child suffers from any medical condition, please ask for the relevant forms from the school office to ensure everyone is aware.

Further details are available within our Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Managing Medicines Policy that can be found on our website.



Communicating with School

Parents are welcome to visit our school and we hope that you will establish contacts with your child's form tutor and year leader.

Parents are invited throughout the year to many special events such as concerts, educational evenings and sports day. We regularly communicate with parents in a number of ways:

Newsletters/Weekly Bulletin

Newsletters giving important dates and information, will be sent home at regular intervals throughout the year via Parent Mail; parents need to complete the forms for this please.

Parent Mail

Most parental communication is sent home via e-mail using a service called Parent Mail, helping to avoid large quantities of paper letters being sent home. We will register you for Parent Mail when the Data Capture Form in this pack is returned.

Website

The school website is a comprehensive resource of key information. It signposts important information you may need as well as celebrating many of the fantastic achievements of our children.



Cycling or Scooting to School

Cycling/scooting to school is permitted and is a healthy way to travel to and from school. All children must complete their signed 'Cycle/Scooter to School' agreement in their diary and adhere to the following rules:

- Cycling/scooting is not allowed on school footpaths or in the playground and in the interest of safety children must comply with the 'Highway Code'.
- All cyclists or scooters must wear helmets.
- Parents are asked to ensure that bicycles/scooters are in a roadworthy condition and fitted with the necessary lights.
- All bicycles/scooters should be put in the cycle racks provided and secured with a padlock.
- The school reserves the right to withdraw the permission to cycle/scoot to school in the case of misuse by children or if the bicycle/scooter is considered to be unsafe in any way.

Emergency Closures

From time to time, especially during the winter, situations arise in which it is necessary to close a school.

Our general policy is that we will remain open and continue to operate whenever possible, provided that children and staff are not exposed to unacceptable conditions at school or on the way to and from school.

However, if it becomes necessary to close the school, information will be provided to the local Heart radio station. Information can also be accessed through the school website, and the 'Dorset for You' websites.



Equipment

Pencil Case

We ask you to provide your child with the following essential equipment:

- Blue or black handwriting pen (a Berol handwriting pen/cartridge pen but not a ballpoint/ biro)
- Pencil and a sharpener
- Rubber
- 30cm ruler
- An appropriate sized school bag for books and belongings

Personal Possessions

All articles should be clearly labelled with your child's name and no valuables should be brought to school or more money than is needed for the day.

No expensive items, toys or games should be brought into school.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not permitted in school. If for **exceptional** reasons your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school, it must be handed to the office before 8.35am and collected at 3.20pm. The phone must be clearly labelled with your child's name. The school does not have insurance which covers this, so parents will need to provide their own insurance.

Any phones that are not handed in and are found in school will be confiscated until parents come in to school to collect them.

Other mobile devices with cameras are not permitted in school.

Jewellery and Make-up

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery or make-up to school. However, children with pierced ears may wear plain metal studs (maximum one per ear). These will have to be removed for safety during PE/Games sessions. We believe that extreme hairstyles do not support the ethos of the school and ask that parents avoid allowing fashion styles during term time.

No responsibility can be taken for any accident due to the ignoring of these requirements.



Healthy Snacks and Hydration

We ask that children bring healthy snacks to school for break times (no sweets, crisps or chocolate) and a reusable water bottle with a sports lid to take to lessons.



School uniform can be purchased from The School Shop, West Moors (01202) 893040.

If a child's uniform is incorrect, we will contact parents to ascertain the reason and to rectify the situation.

Girls' Uniform

- Light blue shirt (long or short sleeved)
- FMS tie (blue and white Striped)
- Black tailored trousers or a black pleated skirt
- Black or dark grey socks or tights (white knee/ankle high socks may be worn with skirts)
- FMS V-necked navy blue sweatshirt or FMS navy blue cardigan
- Sensible black shoes (covered, with a low heel)
- FMS fleece (optional)

Boys' Uniform

- Light blue shirt (long or short sleeved)
- FMS tie (blue and white striped)
- Black tailored trousers
- Black or dark grey socks
- FMS V-necked navy blue sweatshirt
- Sensible black shoes (covered)
- FMS fleece (optional)



Girls
Knee Length Black Pleated Skirt.



Boys & Girls
Plain Black Tailored Trousers.

No buckles, belts, jersey material, skinny fit or tight fitting



Boys & Girls
Blue short sleeved, full buttoned shirts.



Boys & Girls
Blue long sleeved, full buttoned shirts.



Example of sensible girls' school shoes. Please no slippers, ballet style or trainer style shoes.



Example of sensible boys' school shoes. Please no slippers or trainer style shoes.



Uniform

PE Kit

Boys' and Girls' PE Kit

Blue and white reversible long-sleeved games shirt, FMS logo royal blue short-sleeved shirt, black shorts, long blue socks, training shoes, studded footwear and shin pads.



Studded Footwear

All children will need studded footwear for football, rugby and hockey type activities. Studded footwear is for safety, as advised by national sporting bodies and the BAALPE Handbook of Safety in PE. If parents do not wish children to wear studded footwear, they will need to inform the school in writing.

Tracksuits

Tracksuits are optional; if worn they must be plain navy, black or grey (no logos).

PE Bag

A separate small bag for PE/Games kit is essential.

*No jewellery is to be worn during PE lessons.

Provision of Clothing

Parents may apply to the school for assistance in the purchasing of uniform or kit, providing they have successfully applied to Dorset County Council for free school meals. The school will immediately be notified if a parent is eligible for clothing assistance, when Dorset County Council confirms eligibility for free meals.

Those eligible for clothing assistance will be entitled to a sum of up to £50 every two years towards the total cost. This can be claimed by providing a receipt for the purchased items to the school office, which will then be reimbursed.



Ferndown Middle School is situated in very pleasant surroundings. The main building and grounds have spacious and well-resourced learning and practical areas including the following:

Hall

Used for assemblies, PE and drama lessons, musical productions and extra-curricular activities. It also operates as a dining room during the lunch hour.

Gym

A separate, fully equipped gymnasium is complemented by large playing fields, tennis and netball courts. These cater for winter and summer sports during school time and for the wide range of extra-curricular activities that are offered to children throughout the year.

Library

With over 7,000 books and ICT facilities, the library management system enables children to easily access a wide range of reading opportunities.

Science Laboratories

Three fully resourced laboratories are managed by a science technician.

Computer Suites

Two computer suites provide the opportunity for all children in a class to work individually. The school has fully networked computers in the computer suites and various learning and practical areas around the school, including 2 laptop trolleys and iPads. In addition, whiteboards with digital projectors are widely used throughout the school.

Design Area

A spacious and fully equipped design technology area incorporates a CAD/CAM suite, a food and fabric room and a resistant materials workshop. An extensive art area gives children the opportunity to work using a range of different mediums, including a kiln for clay work.



Music Rooms

A well-equipped music room enables children to involve themselves in whole class and small group music-making. Excellent facilities include practice rooms for peripatetic music tuition and resources include keyboards and synthesisers and a whole range of instruments for practical work.