



Donaldson's

Success Through Communication





Mum's new car

Mum's new car



Welcome to Donaldson's

Here at Donaldson's, our aims are simple: - to educate and to care for children in a happy, friendly environment in which they feel safe, supported and valued.

Donaldson's is Scotland's national school for pupils aged 2½ to 19 years who are deaf* or have severe speech and language difficulties. Our pupils come from all over Scotland and the north of England, therefore we offer a range of flexible options including full time day placements, residential placements (Monday to Friday) and shared placements with mainstream schools. Donaldson's provides nursery, primary and secondary education. We welcome pupils of any age and at any time throughout the academic year.

Having moved to a new purpose built school in 2008, our education and residential facilities are equipped to promote the very highest standard of learning, teaching, therapy and care. Donaldson's campus instils pupils with a very strong sense of community and provides a peer group to help develop the social skills of our young people.

To experience all that Donaldson's has to offer, we would love to welcome you to our campus. Please feel free to contact us to arrange a visit.



Janice MacNeill

Janice MacNeill, Principal



“Donaldson's is a wonderful school to be at and I enjoy being here with my friends.”

Pupil



**deaf is used to cover Deaf, hard of hearing and deafened pupils.*

Success through Communication

Donaldson's approach to communication is inclusive. We offer a bilingual environment recognising British Sign Language (BSL) and English equally.

How each pupil communicates and learns is individual, therefore we tailor the support accordingly. Donaldson's ethos and environment benefits both our deaf pupils and those who have significant speech and language difficulties.

We utilise a wide range of approaches to communication based on each pupil's individual needs, with signed support as appropriate. Our campus incorporates the latest technology, which provides an optimum environment for our pupils, many of whom use hearing aids.

All the teaching areas in Donaldson's are acoustically treated, with Soundfield systems and Smartboards to enhance the learning experiences of our pupils.

School and residential staff work closely together to ensure the communication needs of our pupils are met at all times. Donaldson's also provides opportunities for day pupils to mix with residential pupils in a bilingual environment in the evenings, while participating in a range of age appropriate social and leisure activities. Donaldson's also offers respite placements.

All staff are committed to working in partnership with the families and carers of pupils at all times.



*“ The high degree of **focus** on individual learning provides a degree of **confidence** that pupils **achieve** as much as they can by the time they leave school. ”*

Scottish Government Best Value Review





“The school provided a **safe** and **stimulating** environment for **children** and **young people**, and made very good provision for their **educational** and **communication** needs.”

HMle

Access to the curriculum

Donaldson's promotes a 'Curriculum for Excellence'. Our curricular framework supports all children and young people from 2½ to 19 to develop as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors, ready to play a full part in society, both now and in the future.

With appropriate support and bilingual teaching, we ensure that the curriculum is accessible to all of our pupils. Each pupil has both an Individual Education Programme and a Communication Profile. This tailored approach allows pupils to follow the National Curriculum and achieve National Qualifications (Scotland), as appropriate.

To help pupils to become more independent, Donaldson's also has a dedicated Life Skills programme for young people aged 16-19. The unit helps to prepare them for the transition into further education, work experience and/or employment. We accept both current and new pupils on to this programme.



Support for the individual

Donaldson's is unique in offering our pupils access to education, therapy and care within one campus.

Learning and teaching is supported by our in-house interdisciplinary team which includes an Educational Psychologist; Educational Audiologist; Teachers of the Deaf; Speech and Language Therapists; an Occupational Therapist; a Physiotherapist; subject teachers; nursery nurses; classroom assistants and residential care staff.



This extensive team continually assesses each pupil's progress, and monitors communication needs. The team also evaluates each pupil's learning style, and assesses any physical and psychological support he or she may need throughout their education and care.

In addition, Donaldson's has a dedicated Deaf Studies department which teaches British Sign Language, and provides our pupils with an insight into Deaf history and culture. Our deaf colleagues also provide positive role models and mentors for pupils of all ages.

“The assessment of individual learning styles matched with appropriate teaching styles is essential in maximising the potential of each pupil.”

Dr. John Schneider,
Donaldson's Educational
Psychologist





“ The caring staff had very good **relationships** with the children. They knew them very well and praised their **contributions**, developing their confidence and **self esteem** effectively. ”

HMIe



Preparation for the **future**

Donaldson's specialist education, therapy and care can benefit a wide range of pupils who are deaf or have severe speech and language difficulties.

Donaldson's is a Grant Aided Special School supported by the Scottish Government. Local authorities refer pupils and fund placements. Placements in Donaldson's are offered after consultation with our interdisciplinary team led by our Head Teacher and Educational Psychologist. Our Educational Audiologist, Teachers of the Deaf, therapists and care colleagues all contribute to the process.

*“My son really **enjoys** life at **Donaldson's** and feels well **supported** by both the residential and the teaching staff. ”*

Parent (Care Commission Report)

Assessments are carried out in Donaldson's to establish if this is the best environment to meet the individual needs of each prospective pupil. At all times, Donaldson's values the views of parents and carers.

In collaboration with local authorities, Donaldson's offers full support throughout the application process and we always encourage visits to the school. We look forward to arranging an appointment for you in the near future to welcome you to Donaldson's in person.



Central Location



Donaldson's

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Linlithgow
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Textphone: 01506 841 902

Email: info@donaldsons.org.uk

Principal: Janice MacNeill
Head Teacher: Mary O'Brien

www.donaldsons.org.uk

Donaldson's is located in the outskirts of the historic town of Linlithgow in West Lothian. Linlithgow is well positioned within Scotland with easy access by car or train from all major towns within the central belt.

By car, the school is only 35 minutes from Edinburgh; 45 minutes from Glasgow; 25 minutes from Stirling; and 20 minutes from Livingston. The easiest way to travel to Linlithgow by car is via the M9 motorway. Take Junction 3 if you are travelling North (e.g. from Edinburgh) or Junction 4 if you are travelling South (e.g. from Stirling). The frequent train services between Edinburgh and Glasgow also stop in Linlithgow.

