

KINGFISHER WARD SCHOOLROOM

Information for Parents

- ◆ School hours are 9 am to 12 midday on weekdays during the Dorset school term.
- ◆ The schoolroom is open to all school age children (4-16).
- ◆ It is widely recognised that education is a beneficial aid to recovery for sick children and this is strongly supported at Dorset County Hospital.
- ◆ Attendance at the schoolroom is an integral part of the daily routine on the Kingfisher Ward. Wherever possible children are encouraged to come to the schoolroom as part of their care plan, but activities may be provided for your child on the ward if it felt to be more appropriate.
- ◆ Please be assured that your child will be allowed to return to bed if feeling too tired, and that you and the nursing staff will be informed straight away if he/she appears to be in any distress.
- ◆ Your child will be asked to return to bed during Doctor's rounds and will also be taken out of the schoolroom for any medical treatment. You will, of course, be informed of this if you are on the ward.
- ◆ We are trying to create as normal an environment as possible for children, so although you are very welcome to bring your child to the schoolroom at the beginning of the morning, we would respectfully ask you to leave after a few minutes, as you would at his/her normal school. We would also ask you to avoid "popping in" during the morning if possible as your child and others may find it unsettling.
- ◆ You are very welcome to visit the schoolroom before or after school and discuss any thing with us, particularly any special needs your child may have.
- ◆ School also provides a valuable opportunity for you to have a break from the stressful hospital environment, perhaps to go out for some fresh air, go home for a while or just have some breakfast in the canteen.
- ◆ We look forward to meeting you and your son/daughter.

Hospital Teacher



THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION UNIT

DORSET COUNTY HOSPITAL
WILLIAM'S AVENUE
DORCHESTER
DORSET
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KINGFISHER WARD
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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

EDUCATION AND HEALTH WORKING
AND PARTNERSHIP

HOW DO WE FUNCTION?

The Education Unit aims to provide a balance between the continuing development of the child and the necessity for medical treatment. Going to school is a normal part of any child's day and maintaining that routine helps to reduce the trauma of a hospital admission.

All school-age children who are considered well enough, receive education. This may be in the schoolroom, on the ward or in isolation cubicles. Children attend on beds, in wheelchairs, on crutches or attached to all manner of medical equipment.

THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION UNIT

Dorset County Hospital NHS Trust provide and maintain the schoolroom facility, which is a purpose built, separate room, away from the main ward.

Staffing, books, equipment and furniture are provided by the Dorset Education Department.

TEACHING

The part-time teacher and teacher assistant are appointed by the Local Education Authority to work within the Children's Education Unit as part of the Pupil and School Improvement Service.

Liaison with mainstream school is important in order to maintain links for the child, school and parents. The Unit aims to ensure continuity and to minimise the effects of being away from home and school.

The medical and nursing staff are supportive and therefore considerate in their demands on the children during the school morning. This requires a flexible and co-operative approach from both educational and medical teams to ensure that the needs of the child are met.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Education Unit seeks to address the educational needs of the whole child. This is seen as part of a continuous process and thus the Unit seeks to work closely with the staff of the children's mainstream schools and all the other appropriate agencies to promote and enhance continuity of education.

It recognises that education in its widest sense includes the whole process of development from infancy to maturity and the gradual adaptation of physical and social environments. It seeks to emphasise the value that society places on the educative process by supporting its students at vulnerable times.

The Education Unit aims to meet the needs of the National Curriculum and to uphold the Dorset Curriculum Policy, ensuring entitlement to all children whether ill or healthy. The Unit also aims to support each child's right to achieve his or her potential within a mutual spirit of respect and co-ordination.

MEDICAL CARE

When children are recovering from the acute part of their illness, they can start their daily routine of attending school whilst still in hospital. With small numbers they receive considerable individual attention. At no time does this interfere with their medical care. In fact it tends to enhance that care by concentrating on the normal aspects of their lives. The schoolroom is an integral part of the ward's daily routine. The atmosphere of the school is a calm, but clearly an enjoyable one. It acts as a stimulus to recovery and the child is never allowed to become excessively tired emotionally, socially nor physically in the classroom.

