

# Downsell

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow.





# Welcome

It is a great pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of all staff, governors, parents and children to our school. As well as reading through this prospectus we hope you have taken the opportunity to visit us. This booklet is designed to give you some basic information about the school, its aims, policies, curriculum and organisation.

Downsell Primary School was formed in 2005 following the amalgamation of Downsell Infants and Downsell Junior Schools. Our ethos of respect and care for one another is very strong and underpins all we do. As a result, our children are friendly, well behaved and enthusiastic to learn.

We serve a very diverse multicultural community. We aim to recognise every child's individuality and give them the support, encouragement and challenge they need to fulfil their potential. As well as delivering a strong academic education, extra curricular activities such as football, choir and arts and crafts give children the opportunity to develop new interests and develop their social skills.

We are committed to raising standards and the cultivation of positive achievements and our talented staff have a shared commitment to achieving the best for the children. We continually strive to create a supportive school that both looks and feels welcoming. Our continual drive is to provide a high quality education for our children. We believe that this is achieved through a close and trusting relationship between home and school, working together at all times to promote the vision, aims and ethos of the school.

The staff and Governors recognise the essential involvement of the local community and extend a sincere welcome to all interested parties to participate and gain a greater understanding of our school's development.

We hope you find the contents of this prospectus helpful and informative.





# Our Philosophy

At Downsell Primary School we believe that every child matters and children succeed when they are secure, confident and interested in what they are doing. The values of our school reflect our backgrounds, cultures and the wider society in which we live. The principles of equality and diversity are central to our practice and aim of creating successful lifelong learners.

We place a strong emphasis on developing the social and emotional aspects of learning in order to ensure a safe environment, centred around the needs of our children, where they all feel valued, where they can share their successes and failures without fear.

Through a broad and balanced curriculum, we provide interesting, motivating learning experiences which reflect our values and meet the needs of our children. We maintain a clear focus on the development of literacy and numeracy skills with the expectation that all learners achieve high standards.

We aim to develop learners who have the skills necessary to contribute to, and where necessary lead in the development of our society. Learners who are able to solve problems creatively and treat others with respect. Learners who have a strong ethical code, are able to synthesise information from different sources and who are disciplined in their behaviour and thinking.

We believe that every child matters and children succeed when they are secure, confident and interested in what they are doing.



At Downsell we pride ourselves in the high standards of achievement, of our pupils. We believe in offering a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the individual learning styles of all.

We firmly believe that without enjoyment you cannot have excellence; so we strive to deliver a curriculum that allows for natural creativity and innovation.

# The Curriculum

The school teaches the curriculum through subjects and has produced detailed schemes of work for each subject. Due to the nature of the National Curriculum we do not plan to teach every subject every week, but have devised an overall plan that ensures the delivery of the whole curriculum during the time that the children are with us.

The school is divided into seven year groups, with three classes in each year group. Each term, the three class teachers work together to identify the learning objectives and units to be covered during that term. These are taken from the school's scheme of work for each of the National Curriculum subjects.

This means that all the children in each year group are taught the same skills and knowledge. Children are assessed on a regular basis - formally and informally.

Children with identified learning difficulties, whether as an individual or as part of a group, are given extra support within the classroom and may occasionally be withdrawn for specialist intervention.

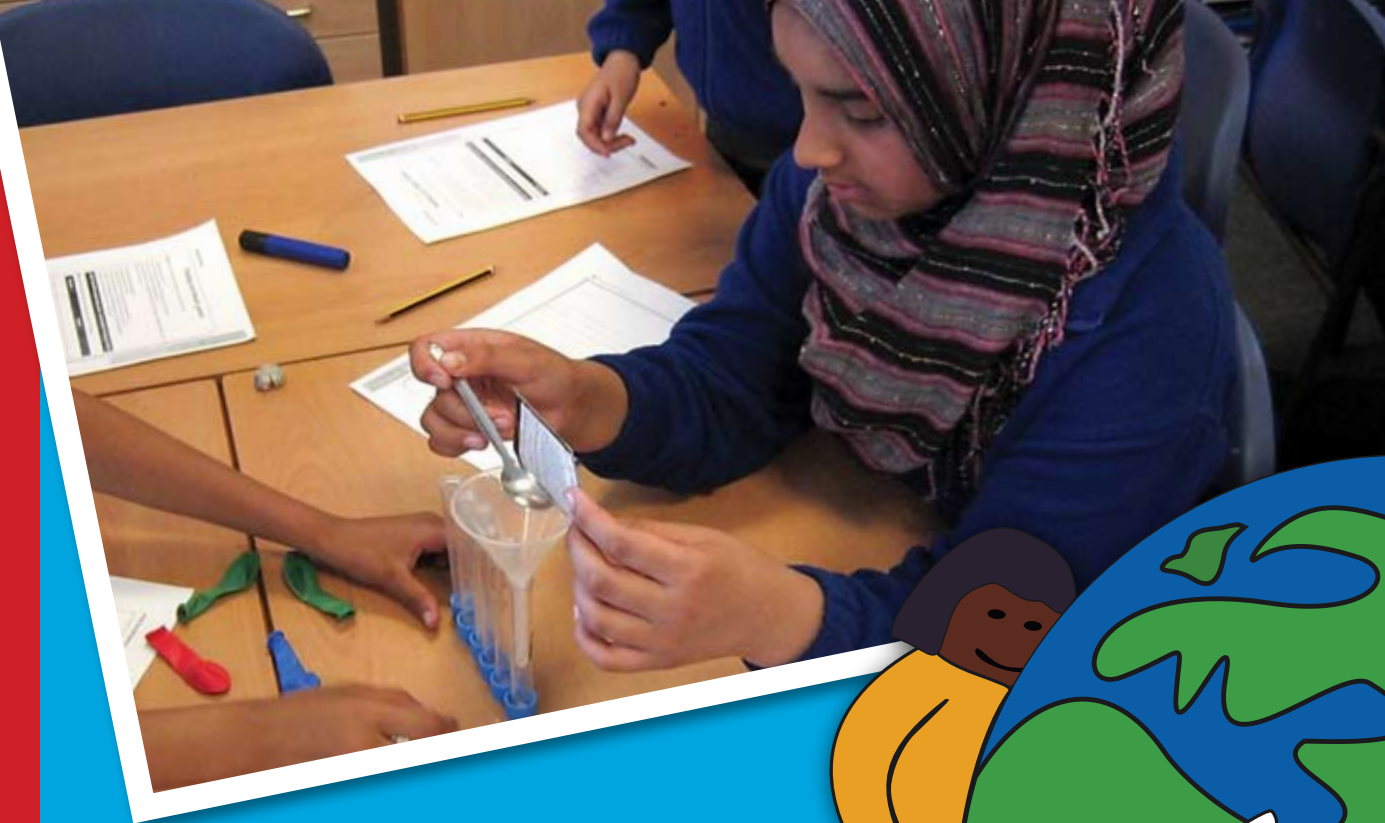




# Parental Involvement

At Downsell, we especially value our strong relationships with parents, carers and families and they are always welcomed at the school.

We have a very active and enthusiastic parents group called PODs (Parents of Downsell School). The group meet weekly to discuss a whole range of projects and activities including organising fund raising activities such as the Christmas and Summer Fair, concerts and celebrations. As well as raising funds, these events are a great reflection of the community spirit which exists in our school. We also have a weekly 'Toy Library' which is a great way for new and prospective parents to get to know each other as well as our school.



## Governing Body

The school's governing body is made up of parents, school staff, community governors and nominations from Waltham Forest local authority. The governors work closely with the school to support and challenge its work and development. Their involvement is invaluable to the success of the school.



# School Building

We are very proud of our school; the governors and staff in consultation with the school council, are continually looking at ways to improve the learning environment for the children.

The school buildings are well maintained and provide a model of modern architecture which creates a relaxing and informal atmosphere.

Our building comprises a well stocked Library, fully resourced ICT suite and Music Room which we use to underpin our broad curriculum offer. Our grounds also include two all weather sports pitch with a covered spectator stand.

Our foundation stage classes also have their own attached outdoor areas. These have recently undergone extensive refurbishment and provide excellent outdoor play and learning environments for our younger children.

# Extended School

As well as our own breakfast club the school also provides a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities such as football, dance, Arts, languages.

We have an active school council. Elections are held every autumn and representatives are selected. The council meet regularly to discuss issues which are important to the children at Downsell. Council members gather ideas and opinions from the children in their class and report back on discussions and decisions after meetings.





# Care & Support

## Child Protection

At Downsell all adults take the issue of child protection very seriously. Parents/carers should know that the law (Children Act 1989) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. The staff will seek in general to discuss any concerns with the parent /carer and where possible seek their consent for a referral to Social Care. This will only be done where such discussion will not place the child at increased risk of significant harm. Schools will seek advice from Social Care when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Occasionally, concerns are passed on which are later shown to be unfounded. Parents/carers will appreciate that the designated person for child protection was carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with the law and acting in the best interests of all children.

## Safety and Security

In our school the safety and security of our children is paramount. The school encourages all parents/carers to ensure the safety of children when bringing children to school or at the end of the school day by parking safely on the road and walking to meet their children. The school itself is securely fenced and has security cameras covering a wide range of areas. Access to the school is restricted via electronic gates and the school's car park is for the use of staff and governors only!

## Support and Guidance

All adults are committed to providing support and guidance for the children. We endeavour to listen to children's concerns and to offer support and guidance whenever possible. We work closely with parents as a team to try to ease concerns and overcome difficulties. We believe that a healthy and open partnership with parents is key to a good education. The school sees good attendance as vital to a child's education and consequently we do not authorise holidays in school time.





# Downsell

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