

# Initial Teacher Training (ITT) in the Teaching School Alliance of Dorset Special Schools (TADSS)

Taking advantage of the government's teaching school agenda, Dorset special schools have formed an alliance to develop outstanding practice in Initial Teacher Training, Continuing Professional Development, Research and Development, Leadership Development and School to School Support.

In time we hope to serve not only the needs of our own schools but also to offer enhanced support to mainstream schools across the region.



All the schools within the alliance, although having varying degrees of experience in working with trainees and providers, are committed to offering the best possible opportunities for initial teacher training within our special educational needs settings. As an alliance we are all in agreement about the important contribution special schools can make in enriching the education and experiences of those coming into the teaching profession.

Whilst wanting to maintain the existing partnerships we have with ITT providers, we recognize that there is an increasing role for us all to play and capacity to accommodate requests for placements will always need to be managed sensitively.

The enclosed information gives an outline of the schools within the alliance, what they can offer in terms of initial teacher training and contact details for the school.

Please get in touch with any of our alliance schools to discuss how we may work with you.

**Karen Bidwell**  
Chair of TADSS ITT Sub-Committee

## Beaucroft Foundation School

Beaucroft is a foundation special school catering for 150 pupils aged between 4 and 19 years. The school provides specialist provision for East Dorset, but also takes pupils from four other local authorities. Pupils have complex learning difficulties, a significant proportion having a diagnosis of autism or sensory impairments.



At Beaucroft we want our pupils to be successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. The school encourages a supportive culture amongst pupils and all who work in school in their approach toward common and individual goals. We aim to provide the best possible learning environment so that each pupil may realise his/her full potential.

Teaching groups are small and reflect the spectrum of needs of our pupils. All pupils follow the National Curriculum which is modified to meet the needs of the individual.

### ITT Provision

Beaucroft has an established history of providing ITT placements with a focus on SEN provision. We are a partnership school for both the Poole and the South West Coast SCITT programmes and currently offer placements ranging from one day taster visits to 3 week placements. The school also offers 6 week placements to trainees from King Alfred's College, Winchester.

Beaucroft can offer experience in:

- ✔ Primary and Secondary phases
- ✔ Post 16
- ✔ Subject focus opportunities across phases
- ✔ Specific interventions, such as for ASD
- ✔ Working with families

### For more information contact:

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## Mountjoy School



At Mountjoy we pride ourselves in being a warm and close-knit community of learners. We work with young people between the ages of 2.5 and 19 to maximise their potential for learning and independence. As an integral part of the local and wider community, we work strongly with a variety of multi-agency professionals.

Mountjoy serves a wide catchment area across West Dorset. A very large majority of pupils have severe learning difficulties; some pupils have autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), profound and multiple learning difficulties or behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

Learning at Mountjoy School takes place within 'Stages' that are related to the age of a young person: Early Years Stage, Learning and Life Stage and Developing Independence. These Stages of Learning allow for a strong and structured curriculum progression, with a distinct essence of learning within every Stage.

### ITT Provision

We welcome visitors to the school for a guided tour or to spend a day in a class with us. We regularly offer placements to students from a variety of settings, including local colleges. Mountjoy is a partnership school for the Dorset Teacher Training partnership (DTTP) SCITT programme and currently offers one Spring Term placement in the Primary phase plus one day visits.

Mountjoy can offer experience in:

- ✔ Primary and Secondary phases
- ✔ Post 16
- ✔ Multi-agency working with therapists and other professionals
- ✔ Specific interventions, such as for ASD
- ✔ Working with families

### For more information contact

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# Westfield Arts College



Westfield Arts College is a maintained special school catering for 180 pupils aged between 4 and 19 years. Pupils have complex learning difficulties, a significant proportion having a diagnosis of autism, speech and language disorders, behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. Attainment at entry is at least 3 years behind national expectations and most are working well below this, with a significant proportion of pupils facing challenges in addition to their learning needs. Parenting support includes National Autistic Society EarlyBird/ EarlyBird Plus programmes, Barnardo's Cygnets programme (ASD), Pupil/Parent Support Workers and a School Counsellor.

The aim of Westfield is to 'broaden horizons' and ensure pupils have the best possible education and experiences to support them in achieving their full potential. Teaching groups are small and reflect the spectrum of needs of our pupils. All pupils follow the National Curriculum, which is modified to meet the needs of the individual.

## ITT Provision

Westfield has an established history of providing ITT placements with a focus on SEN provision e.g. in partnership with Dorset Teacher Education Partnership, all Dorset GTPs have spent 4 days observing and attending workshops. Westfield is a partnership school for the Dorset Teacher Training partnership (DTTP) SCITT programme and currently offers one Spring Term placement in the Primary phase plus one day visits. We also offer 1-12 day placements to trainees from Exeter and Plymouth Universities. Prospective trainees have the opportunity to visit the school through the School Experience Programme and volunteer placements.

Westfield can offer experience in:

- ✔ Primary and Secondary phases
- ✔ Post 16
- ✔ Subject focus opportunities across phases (English, Maths, Science, Art, MFL, PE ICT etc)
- ✔ Specific interventions such as for ASD, Nurture Group
- ✔ Working with families

## For more information contact:

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# Wyvern Academy



Wyvern is a purpose-built specialist academy for cognition and learning, co-located since 2006 on an inclusive campus with a mainstream primary school and a mainstream secondary school. We provide highly individualised education for up to 86 pupils aged 2 - 19 years with complex learning difficulties, including Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Wyvern is accredited by the National Autistic Society.

The majority of pupils educated at Wyvern have substantial global developmental delay, emergent communication skills and are highly dependent. Some may have additional disabilities such as cerebral palsy, sensory impairment, autism and/or complex needs including challenging behaviour.

We offer a wide range of bespoke educational opportunities within our curriculum tailored to the needs of the individual, including access to the latest technologies such as iPads, hydrotherapy in our own pool, rebound therapy, MOVE mobility programme, college links, nationally recognised accreditation including NVQ, to name but a few.

## ITT Provision

We welcome visitors to the school for a guided tour or to spend a day in a class with us. We regularly offer placements to students from a variety of settings including local colleges. Wyvern is an established partnership school for the Dorset Teacher Training Partnership (DTTP) SCITT programme and currently offers up to two placements in the Primary phase per year.

Wyvern can offer experience in:

- ✔ Primary and Secondary phases
- ✔ Post 16
- ✔ Multi-agency working with therapists and other professionals
- ✔ Specific interventions, such as for ASD
- ✔ Working with families

## For more information contact

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# Yewstock School



Yewstock School provides for 131 children and students between the ages of 2 and 19 years. It is a day community school for children with profound and multiple (PMLD), Severe (SLD), Moderate (MLD) or complex learning difficulties. Some children have additional sensory or physical impairments, speech and language disorders or medical needs, others are within the autistic spectrum.

The aim of Yewstock School is to provide the best possible education and experiences to our pupils, and a Primary and Secondary education comparable to that offered to children of similar age and ability in mainstream schools. All pupils follow the National Curriculum, which is modified to meet the needs of the individual, making it very personalised. The school offers a specialised curriculum to pupils with SLD, PMLD and ASD, many who are working at early P Levels. This curriculum is often sensory based and includes access to a specialist sensory room. Teaching groups are small in order to be able to meet the pupils' individual needs.

## ITT Provision

Yewstock School currently offers prospective teachers the opportunity for visits to the school and longer volunteer placements. Yewstock is a partnership school for the Dorset Teacher Training Partnership (DTTP) SCITT programme and currently offers up to two placements in the Primary phase per year.

Yewstock can offer experience in:

- ✔ Primary and Secondary phases
- ✔ Post 16
- ✔ Subject focus opportunities across phases (English, Maths, Science PE ICT DT etc)
- ✔ Multi-agency working with therapists and other professionals
- ✔ Specific interventions, such as for ASD
- ✔ Working with families

## For more information contact

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