



The Forum School

Shillingstone, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 0QS

The Forum School is a 38–52 week residential school for children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, set in 28 acres of Dorset countryside with facilities including a theatre, sports hall, riding areas, climbing wall and swimming pool. It offers access to a differentiated National Curriculum alongside specialist education, 24-hour care and a range of clinical and therapeutic support. With small class sizes, high staffing ratios and a multidisciplinary team, pupils receive intensive individual support, while a ‘home away from home’ environment is provided through on- and off-site accommodation, each with dedicated keyworkers. Admissions are available year-round.

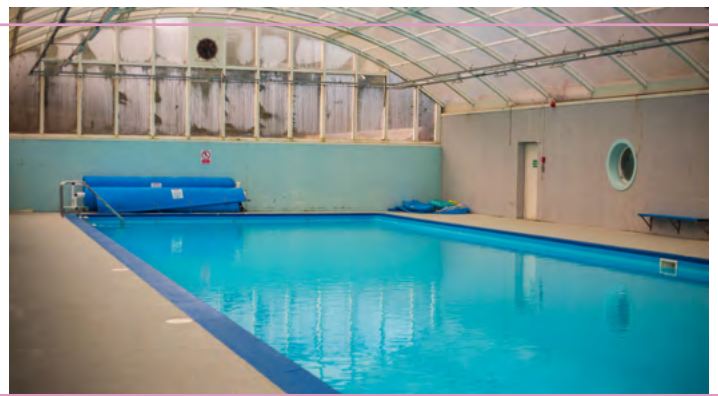
Student Profile

- Mixed gender, ages 7-19
- Primary diagnosis of Autism
- Co-existing conditions
- Complex needs
- Challenging behaviour
- Learning difficulties
- History of placement breakdowns

PARENT FEEDBACK

“ The regular updates on the activities that my son has been engaged in during education and at the care home and the photographs of him from the School (especially enjoying himself horse riding, swimming and engaging in class and in the gym) has provided me with great comfort and relief that he is coping very well, making progress and is happy. ”

– Parent



Every effort is made to create a happy, family atmosphere in the home. Each young person has their own room and all have vanity units or en-suite bathrooms. Rugs and soft furnishings make each room comfortable and individualised.

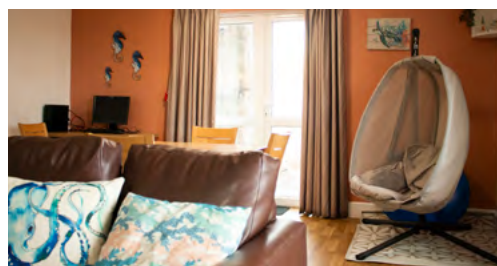
Parents and children are encouraged to personalise rooms with toys, books and photographs from home. There is a safe outside play area, with different play equipment for each home. Every child has a key worker who is responsible for the care, welfare, safety and learning programmes of their key child. The key worker is the main parental contact, but all staff in the house base work with the child or young person and therefore have a good knowledge of their requirements.



Our dedicated team include:

- Specialist teachers
- Trained teaching assistants
- Speech and language therapist
- Occupational therapists
- Clinical psychologist
- Psychiatrist
- Key workers
- Assistant psychologist
- Physiotherapist
- Nurse
- Music therapist
- Equine therapy

On-site occupational therapy services provide tailored, EHCP-aligned support focused on sensory integration and developing daily living skills, using evidence-based strategies to enhance students' independence and wellbeing. Psychology services offer comprehensive assessments and personalised interventions to address behavioural, emotional and cognitive needs, while Music Therapy, including Neurologic Music Therapy (NMT), supports communication, physical, and neurological development. Together, the multidisciplinary therapy team works collaboratively to deliver holistic, individualised care for each young person.



“ It has been a miracle how well J has settled into home and school. We are so proud that he attends school daily after having 3 years away from education.

We are very thankful of all the support for J to receive the PANDAS diagnosis.

We are especially impressed with the relationships and friendships in the home and the photographic evidence of this.

– Parent ”

To make an enquiry click here 