esland

Doncaster School



Prospectus

2026-2027

eslanddoncasterschool.co.uk

Changing children's lives for the better

Find your way

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All photographs contained in this prospectus are of actual young people and staff who were in attendance at an Esland school or live/work in an Esland home. These images cannot be used or reproduced.

Everyone included enjoyed their involvement in being part of the promotion of the Esland Group and all necessary consents were obtained.

Welcome

from Christine Sherman our headteacher



Dear students, parents and carers,

It is my privilege to welcome you to Esland Doncaster School. We are a safe, supportive, and specialist environment for students aged 7–18 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who have a primary need of Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), Speech, Language and Communication needs (SLCN), anxiety, emotionally based school avoidance, or Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH).

We understand that finding the right school can feel challenging. Our promise is simple: we listen, we understand, and we work alongside you every step of the way. Strong partnerships with children and families are at the heart of everything we do, they are the foundation of our success.

We are extremely proud of our school and believe every child deserves a place where they are understood, supported, and celebrated. We place great emphasis on connection, compassion and consistency. Our highly skilled team of teachers, therapists, and support staff create a nurturing environment where students can thrive. With small class sizes and a therapeutically informed, personalised curriculum, we help children build confidence, resilience, independence, and a genuine love of learning.

Our values guide us every day:

- **Kindness**, because every child deserves dignity and care.
- **Curiosity**, because we never stop seeking the best ways to help each child thrive.
- **Boldness**, because we believe in each child's potential.
- **Fun**, because joy and laughter are essential to learning.

I warmly invite you to visit and experience the positive atmosphere that makes Esland Doncaster School so special. Please reach out if you'd like to talk or arrange a tour. We look forward to meeting with you!

Yours sincerely,



Ethos

A bespoke learning experience

At Esland Doncaster School, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to thrive in life. We are a nurturing and inclusive community where emotional wellbeing, personal growth, and academic achievement are equally valued. Every learner is supported to feel safe, understood, and confident in their potential.

Our ethos is shaped by four core values that guide all relationships and learning experiences: Fun, Bold, Curious, and Kind. These values help us build a school culture grounded in connection, consistency, and compassion, enabling children to develop resilience and self-belief.

We recognise that our students need more than access to knowledge. They need emotional safety, trusting relationships, and personalised pathways that celebrate their strengths while supporting their individual needs. Our curriculum is rooted in therapeutic principles and delivered through small-group learning, hands-on experiences, and tailored opportunities that promote engagement and success.

From the moment each child joins us, we commit to understanding them deeply. We seek to identify barriers early, champion strengths, and create an environment where students feel confident to explore, express themselves, and grow. Working closely with families, carers, and external professionals, we provide a truly holistic, child-centred education.

We know that success looks different for every learner. Through flexible curriculum routes, therapeutic support, and bespoke learning packages, we prepare each young person not only for academic progress but for life beyond school, confident, capable, and ready for their next steps.

Our ethos is simple: We know our students. We nurture their wellbeing. We challenge them to grow and we help them shape a future they can be proud of.



Our school

A sensory friendly, calm and connected place to learn

Based at Melton Park, Esland Doncaster School sits within the peaceful rural landscape of High Melton, surrounded by long established green space and woodland that create a calm, spacious environment where students can feel settled and ready to learn. The layout ensures safe access, clear boundaries and a sense of connection to a broader learning community.

Alongside its natural setting, the park is also home to neighbouring businesses such as a nursery, café and training facilities, helping to create a small, supportive community around the site and offering opportunities for positive, age appropriate interaction.

This blend of tranquillity and gentle community presence makes Esland Doncaster School an inviting and reassuring location for families choosing a nurturing school environment.



Learning spaces

The school is a well equipped, thoughtfully designed environment created to meet the diverse needs of our students. It includes ten high quality learning spaces, featuring a dedicated food technology room and a calm, self referral space. Each area is carefully tailored to support our wide age range and the individual profiles of our learners. Every space is structured to encourage focused learning, emotional regulation, and positive, meaningful engagement.

Outdoor Environment

We are fortunate to have access to a variety of outdoor spaces, including a small woodland area that supports outdoor learning, wellbeing activities and opportunities for exploration. The natural setting provides a calming backdrop and enables us to integrate nature-based approaches into our curriculum.

Our curriculum

At Esland Doncaster School, our curriculum provides a highly personalised, therapeutically informed and stage appropriate learning experience that enables every student to thrive in life: academically, socially and emotionally. Adapted from the national curriculum but rooted in a stage not age philosophy, it ensures that each learner receives the right level of structure, challenge and support to make meaningful progress and prepare confidently for life beyond school. Many of our students have experienced trauma or negative periods in their education, and some may have been out of school for a significant time. That's why we prioritise creating the right curriculum, delivered in the right way, to meet the unique needs of every child. Our approach places strong emphasis on:

- Emotional safety and trusted relationships, ensuring students can access learning successfully.
- Communication, oracy and interaction, supporting students to express themselves, regulate emotions and build relationships.
- Reading, writing and numeracy, building essential academic foundations for long term success.
- Independence and functional life skills, embedded throughout all stages.

This ensures a curriculum that is not only academically ambitious but also deeply attuned to the needs of students with diverse and complex learning profiles. Students follow individual pathways and work towards a range of qualifications and accredited outcomes such as Functional Skills, GCSE's and BTEC's. We understand that many of our students may have had negative experiences of school or may have been out of education for some time, so we place great emphasis on building the right curriculum with the right approach for each child.



Lower school

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- PE
- PSHE
- Technology
- Art and Design
- RE
- Humanities
- Computing
- Forest School

Upper school

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- PE
- PSHE
- Citizenship
- Computing
- Cooking
- Enterprise
- Financial Management
- iDEA
- Independence plus
- Vocational and work skills

Careers information, advice and guidance

Students and families will have access to independent careers advice and guidance to explore opportunities and identify next steps for each young person.

Therapeutic approach

Therapeutically informed approach

We have a therapeutically informed approach to teaching, working to ensure that broader individual needs are met so that learning can take place.

Our staff have extensive knowledge and experience working with young people with additional needs, and they receive ongoing weekly in-house clinical CPD (continuing professional development) to inform their practice further.

Extra targeted training is provided where appropriate for staff in specific roles or to help them meet the needs of individual students. Our clinical team also offers specialist therapeutic support, including:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Counselling
- Art Therapy



The school's behaviour policy is based on the principles of relational behaviour management. We understand that much of the behaviour presented by the students attending our school is needs-driven.

When a student first joins us, their parents or carers will be involved in writing a behaviour support plan that informs staff and enables them to implement individualised approaches for managing challenging behaviour. We supplement this with trauma-informed approaches, such as the PACE (playfulness, acceptance, curiosity, and empathy) therapeutic model.







"At Esland Doncaster School, inclusion isn't just a principle, it's our practice. Every child is valued for who they are, and we work tirelessly to create a community where differences are celebrated, voices are heard, and every student feels safe, supported, and empowered to succeed. We want every child to live our mission, which is to thrive in life!"

Christine Sherman
Headteacher

Admissions process

Students are placed at Esland Doncaster School following a referral by their Local Authority (LA). Our panel will review the referral paperwork, and if we feel we can meet the young person's needs, we'll ask for the LA's permission to complete an assessment to determine their suitability for a placement.

Our assessment process involves young people visiting the school with their parents/carers. We'll give them a tour of the school, discuss its provision, and what additional adjustments may be required.

In some circumstances, we may contact previous school placements and other professionals working with the young person to gain additional feedback that will support their referral paperwork.

Once the assessment is complete, and if both parties agree to proceed, we'll approach the LA with a formal placement offer before contacting parents/carers to begin transition arrangements.





Admissions criteria

We'll consider referrals for students who:

- Are aged between 7 – 18 years old
- Have an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP)
- Have a primary need related to:
  - Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC)
  - Speech, Language and Communication needs (SLCN)
  - Anxiety
  - Emotionally based school avoidance
  - Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) related to any of the above
- Are able (or have the potential) to:
  - Access a broad and balanced curriculum resembling the National Curriculum at key stage 2, 3, 4 and 5
  - Access the teaching primarily as part of a small group (up to five)
- May also present with:
  - Challenging behaviour within mainstream settings (due to needs above not being appropriately met)
  - A history of school refusal and/or placement breakdowns
  - Barriers to learning such as dyslexia and dyspraxia
  - Additional communication and/or sensory needs
  - Academic progress below age related expectations
  - ADHD, OCD, ADD, PDA, Tourette's Syndrome (as a secondary or additional diagnosis to those listed above)



Admissions and referrals

Local Authorities

If you represent a Local Authority and would like to make a referral, please complete the form on the link below or scan the QR code. Once submitted, a member of our team will contact you to discuss the next steps.

eslanddoncasterschool.co.uk/consultation-form

Parent/carer enquiries

If you're a parent or carer and would like to find out more about our school, please complete the form on the link below or scan the QR code. Once submitted, we'll be in touch to book you a place at one of our open mornings.

eslanddoncasterschool.co.uk/pc-form

Contact us

Esland Doncaster School
The Pavilion
Melton Park
Doncaster Road
High Melton
Doncaster
DN5 7SY

Email: doncasterschool@esland.co.uk

Opening times: 9:00am - 3:15pm

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