

CHOICE • DIVERSITY • EXCELLENCE

# A parents' guide to independent Special Schools in Scotland





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Location Map of independent Special Schools



**Eighteen independently run special schools that provide day and residential care and education for young people with Additional Support Needs are members of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools. They're located all around Scotland and a location map is on the back page of this leaflet.**

**What are the main reasons that young people are supported in Special Schools?**

Some special schools have particular areas of expertise - motor impairments, language and speech disorders, autistic spectrum disorder, for example - while the majority work with young people who have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. The children and young people at special schools have usually disengaged from mainstream schools or been excluded from them.

The list, below, shows the main reasons that children and young people are supported in independent special schools: (We have used the Scottish Government's classifications.)

- Learning disability
- Dyslexia
- Visual impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Deafblind
- Physical or motor impairment
- Language or speech disorder
- Autistic spectrum disorder
- Social, emotional and behavioural difficulty
- Physical health problem
- Mental health problem
- Interrupted learning
- English as an additional language
- Looked after
- More able young person

**Day and residential care and education**

Most residential schools provide 52 week placements for young people – all year round – while the day schools usually close during holiday periods.

## Funding and “the referral process”

Given the nature of the round-the-clock care provided in most special schools, it’s no surprise that running costs are high – which means that most families would struggle to afford the fees unaided. Consequently, places at special schools are usually funded by local authorities, on the recommendation of Educational Psychologists and Social Workers, if it’s agreed that a young person’s needs cannot be met sufficiently elsewhere. This is known as “the referral process”.

## The next steps...

If you feel that the long term needs of your son or daughter would be met better in a special school, talk to the Headteacher of your child’s current school in the first instance. You can also contact your local authority’s Educational Psychologist for advice.

Most special schools will be happy to show you around and explain the work that they do. While you can certainly request that your child is given a placement at a particular special school, be aware that the decision to meet the cost lies with your local authority.

You will find profiles of all the independent, special schools in membership of SCIS at [www.scis.org.uk/schools/special-needs-schools](http://www.scis.org.uk/schools/special-needs-schools)



## Placement requests

If you’re thinking about requesting a place in a special school for your son or daughter, we recommend that you take a look at the Additional Support for Learning Act – in particular, the section about placement requests. A link to it is available at [www.scis.org.uk/for-parents/special-needs-education](http://www.scis.org.uk/for-parents/special-needs-education)

## For further information...

We suggest that you take a look at the Special Needs Education page of our website at [www.scis.org.uk/for-parents/special-needs-education](http://www.scis.org.uk/for-parents/special-needs-education). It contains further information and useful links to other websites.

**All special schools offer qualifications awarded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). Some also offer additional, specialist qualifications. A list showing the qualifications offered at each school is included, below.**

**Examination abbreviations used in the table, opposite**



ASDAN	Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN qualifications include Basic skills, Key skills, Life skills, Career planning, Personal effectiveness, Personal and social development, Volunteering, Employability, Functional skills, Personal Progress)
CACPD	Council for the Advancement of Communication with Deaf People
BSL	British Sign Language
NQ	National Qualifications
SVQ	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
Access 1,2,3	Access Courses
S	Standard Grade
I1 & 2	Intermediate Courses
H	Higher
AH	Advanced Higher

## Table of the qualifications offered by independent Special Schools in Scotland

<p><b>Aberdeenshire</b> Troup House School</p>	Access 1 & 2, S
<p><b>Dumfries and Galloway</b> Closeburn House &amp; Maben House</p>	Access 2 & 3, I2 & 3, S, ASDAN Bronze, Silver and Silver Challenge plus specific topics
<p><b>East Ayrshire</b> Daldorch House Rathbone</p>	Access 1, 2 & 3 and I1, 2 & 3 I1 & 2, Access 1, 2 & 3
<p><b>Edinburgh</b> Dunedin School Harmony School Royal Blind School</p>	I1 & I2, Access 2 & 3, S, H n/a S, I1, I2, H, AH Access 1, 2 & 3, ASDAN
<p><b>Fife</b> Falkland House School  Hillside School Seamab Starley Hall School</p>	I1 & I2, Access 2 & 3, S, H, ASDAN (Bronze and Silver) S, I1, Access 2 & 3 n/a I1, I2, Access 3, ASDAN (Bronze/Silver)
<p><b>North Lanarkshire</b> The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments</p>	n/a
<p><b>Perth and Kinross</b> The New School, Butterstone</p>	S, H, I1, I2, Access 1, 2 & 3 ASDAN
<p><b>Renfrewshire</b> Corseford School Capability Scotland Spark of Genius</p>	Access 1, 2 & 3, I1 & 2, S, H, AH, ASDAN Caledonian Awards Access 1, 2 & 3, I1 & 2, H
<p><b>South Lanarkshire</b> Stanmore House School Capability Scotland</p>	Access 1, ASDAN
<p><b>West Lothian</b> Donaldson's Moore House Care &amp; Education</p>	S, I1, I2, H, Access 1, 2 & 3 S, I1 & 2, Access 3, ASDAN and Youth Achievement Awards

# Easy Reference Table

Full contact details and website links for all the special schools, below, can be found at [www.scis.org.uk/schools/special-needs-schools](http://www.scis.org.uk/schools/special-needs-schools)

A profile of each school is also available in the SCIS Directory at [www.scis.org.uk/publications](http://www.scis.org.uk/publications)

School	Age range	Gender	Residential	Day	Expertise	Social, emotional & behavioural challenges	Referral method & funding
Closeburn House and Maben House Dumfries and Galloway	8-16 years	C'burn = girls M'ben = boys	•	•	Learning disability, Dyslexia, Other specific learning difficulty (e.g. numeric), Moderate learning difficulty, Hearing impairment, Language or speech disorder, Autistic spectrum disorder, Mental health problem, Interrupted learning, English as an additional language, Looked after, More able young person	•	Local Authority,
Corseford House Kilbarchan Renfrewshire	5-18 years	Co-ed	•	•	Learning disability, Physical or motor impairment, Looked after		Local Authority
Daldorch House School and Continuing Education Centre Catrine, East Ayrshire	8-21 years	Co-ed	•	•	Autistic spectrum disorder		Local Authority
Donaldson's Linlithgow, West Lothian	2.5-19 years	Co-ed	•	•	Hearing, impairment Language or speech disorder, Autistic spectrum disorder		Local Authority
Dunedin School Edinburgh	10-18 years	Co-ed		•	Mental health problem, Interrupted learning	•	Local Authority and application by parents
Falkland House School Falkland, Fife	5-18 years	Boys	•	•	Autistic spectrum disorder, Mental health problem, Looked after	•	Local Authority

School	Age range	Gender	Residential	Day	Expertise	Social, emotional & behavioural challenges	Referral method & funding
Harmeny School Edinburgh	P1-S2	Co-ed	•	•	Mental health problem, Interrupted learning, Looked after	•	Local Authority
Hillside School Aberdour, Fife	10-16 years	Boys	•		Learning disability, Dyslexia, Moderate learning difficulty, Interrupted learning, Looked after	•	Local Authority
Moore House Care and Education Bathgate, West Lothian	11-16 years	Co-ed	•	•	Looked after	•	Local Authority
The New School Dunkeld, Perth	12-18 years	Co-ed	•	•	Learning disability, Dyslexia, Other specific learning difficulty (e.g. numeric), Moderate learning difficulty, Hearing impairment, Physical or Motor Impairment, Language or speech disorder, Autistic spectrum disorder, Mental Health problem, Physical health problem, Interrupted learning, English as an additional language, Looked after	•	Local Authority or parental enquiry
Rathbone Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire	14-16 years	Co-ed		•	Interrupted learning, Looked after	•	Local Authority
The Royal Blind School Edinburgh	4.5-19 years	Co-ed	•	•	Visual impairment and Multiple Disability Visual impairment		Local Authority or application by parents

School	Age range	Gender	Residential	Day	Expertise	Social, emotional & behavioural challenges	Referral method & funding
The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments - The Craigalbert Centre Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire	Birth-18 years	Co-ed		•	Physical and motor impairments		Local Authority, NHS Trusts or parents
Seamab School Rumbling Bridge, Kinross, Fife	Primary	Co-ed	•	•	Learning disability, Language and speech disorder, Autistic spectrum disorder, Interrupted learning, Looked after	•	Local Authority
Spark of Genius Paisley, Renfrewshire	8-17 years	Co-ed	•	•	Learning disability, Dyslexia, Other specific learning difficulty (e.g. numeric), Moderate learning difficulty, Autistic spectrum disorder, Mental health problem, Interrupted learning, Looked after	•	Local Authority
Starley Hall School Burntisland, Fife	10-18 years	Co-ed	•	•	Moderate learning difficulty e.g. numeric, Autistic spectrum disorder, Interrupted learning, Looked after	•	Local Authority
Stanmore House School - Capability Scotland Lanark, South Lanarkshire	5-18 years	Co-ed	•	•	Learning disability, physical or motor impairment		Local Authority
Troup House School Aberdeenshire	11-16 years	Co-ed	•		Dyslexia, Moderate learning difficulty, Language or speech disorder, Autistic spectrum disorder, Interrupted learning, Looked after	•	Local Authority

# Location map



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