



Daldorch  
House School

Welcome to my  
school. Welcome  
to **MyProgress**<sup>®</sup>



The National  
Autistic Society



Enjoying my  
school is part of  
**MyProgress<sup>®</sup>**



**Bernadette Casey, Principal**



**Dr Jacqui Ashton Smith,  
Executive Director of Education**

# Welcome to Daldorch House School

Come to Daldorch and you will see staff in tune with the pupils we support, sensitively supporting yet challenging each individual to achieve to the best of their ability. We strive to help young people make positive progress over time, in all aspects of learning for life, managing the challenges of autism, and building capacity to cope in the wider world.

At Daldorch pupils enjoy learning in the great outdoors, as well as in our customised classrooms and in local community facilities. Learning at Daldorch is fun, functional and relevant to life today.

Do come and visit and see for yourself.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernadette Casey".

**Bernadette Casey  
Principal**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Ashton Smith".

**Dr Jacqui Ashton Smith  
Executive Director of Education**

# We're autism specialists



“Daldorch is brilliant and fantastic. It’s a fun place. There are lots of things for me to do. I have some good friends here too.”

Michael, age 17, pupil

## Your child is unique, and so are we

At Daldorch we specialise in educating children with autism to reach their full potential across all aspects of their life. Our aim is to prepare each young person for adulthood so that when they leave Daldorch they can use their skills and participate fully in their community.

We offer a complete education so that your child learns not only traditional academic subjects but also the social, behavioural and communication skills that children with autism can find so challenging. Your child will have their own individual timetable and support package, so that at all times they are learning in the best possible way for them.

Members of staff at Daldorch have an extensive knowledge of autism and its impact on our young people, and as a team we draw on a significant depth of expertise and experience.

## Flexible provision

Because every child is different, our provision is completely flexible, ranging from day to 52-week residential placements. If your child attends Daldorch daily, their placement can be designed to include additional and extended days. If your child has a residential placement, they may spend weekends and holidays with you, or stay with us for up to 365 days a year.

## Key facts about Daldorch:

- Education Scotland says we are very good at meeting learners' needs
- Autism Accreditation accredited service
- primary, secondary and post-16
- ages 8 to 21
- girls and boys
- day and residential places
- 52-week residential placements and individualised arrangements as required, for weekends and holiday periods
- short breaks throughout the year
- on-site psychologists, speech and language and occupational therapists
- outreach support for young people aged 5 to 25
- staff ratio flexible to meet the individual needs of young people
- we encourage a mix of group and individual opportunities to promote social skills and independence
- established in 1998
- satellite school in South Lanarkshire.



Understanding  
my autism  
is part of  
**MyProgress<sup>®</sup>**

## How we help your child

### Our approach to assessment, recording and reporting

**MyProgress®** is The National Autistic Society's overall strategy for working with your child. With **MyProgress®**, your child will have the best start in life because every aspect of their care and education is tailor-made for them.

**MyProgress®** guarantees that your child will use approaches that The National Autistic Society has tried and tested over many years: we know that they make a difference.

### Caring and educating with warmth and expertise

We want your child to learn to live well with their autism. We want them to leave us ready for their adult life. And we want them to be happy.

We'll always do our best for your child. We'll use our knowledge, experience and expertise, and above all our commitment to making their life at Daldorch and beyond as full, interesting and enjoyable as possible.

We'll do this by giving them a safe and welcoming place to live and learn, by involving them in decisions about their life, by giving them a complete and holistic education, and by working closely with you.

### Interacting with the world outside our school

At Daldorch, school doesn't end at the gates: we are learning for the real world, and preparing your child to live as an active member of their community.

We spend as much time as we can outside school in the village of Catrine and further afield, exploring the countryside and beaches, and going into town. We've developed links with local organisations that mean that every young person can volunteer in some way. The community is an extension of our classroom and we use every opportunity to put the skills we've learned into practice.

When your child leaves Daldorch, they will have practised the skills they need in order to live as independently as possible, and will have learned that they have an important role to play in society.

### We look to the future

An important outcome of **MyProgress®** is ensuring that your child is ready to move on to the next stage in their life. We work closely with you, your child and our transition co-ordinator to create a **My Transitions Passport**. This document describes your child's skills, interests, aspirations and other key information to provide a clear plan for his or her future and lifelong learning.

### MyProgress®

My teacher works with speech therapists, psychologists and, of course, my parents to assess all areas of my development. This helps everyone understand my strengths and needs.



## Every term

**My ability profile** demonstrates the unique way autism impacts on me and my learning style.

**MyProgress® meeting** identifies what my school and my family can do to build on my strengths and interests and support me in the things I find difficult.

**MyProgress® plans** set out my academic, social and independence targets and says how the curriculum and timetable are going to be tailored to meet my needs.

**MyProgress® curriculum** puts significant emphasis on social communication skills, community-based learning and enterprise. The curriculum is delivered using the NAS SPELL philosophy that includes a blend of autism-specific interventions.

**MyProgress® file** provides evidence of my achievements across academic (eg literacy), social (eg turn-taking), emotional (eg managing my emotions), and independence (eg caring for myself) aspects of learning.

**MyProgress® report** measures how I am doing against my targets by rating progress red, amber or green. My achievements in green are celebrated and my teacher develops an action plan to help me improve in those areas rated red.

# We're a team



“The education, psychology, and speech and language input are exceptional.”

Parent

## A highly qualified multi-disciplinary team

Every member of staff at Daldorch is trained in understanding autism, and understands how it impacts on our young people.

We know that your child does best when a team of people work closely and consistently to support them to develop as individuals. At Daldorch we promote independence and learning across the entire day. Our education, social care and support for learning teams are all based in school and work alongside your child. They meet regularly to share their expertise and observations, and to make sure that your child is happy and learning well.

## How our support for learning team helps your child

When your child comes to Daldorch our support for learning team will be part of the team assessing and providing specialist input. We work side by side with your child and the staff team, providing direct support, so that your child is always learning to the best of their ability, through a systematic individualised programme of support. Above all, our approach is holistic: our support for learning team works together, pooling expertise and experience. We are rigorous, systematic and constantly assess and monitor how your child is doing.

## Our support for learning team:

- speech and language therapist
- occupational therapists
- educational psychologist
- psychology support assistants.

## The Centre for Autism

In addition to our own staff's expertise, we draw on the specialist knowledge of The National Autistic Society's Centre for Autism. The Centre gathers and shares research evidence about autism and is an extremely valuable resource as we develop our programmes and extend our work.

Education Scotland have said that our staff use very effective approaches to support young people's anxieties and behaviour. They have commented on the very positive relationships among staff and young people.

Striving to make  
every day positive is  
part of **MyProgress**<sup>®</sup>





Growing in  
confidence and  
independence  
is part of

**MyProgress<sup>®</sup>**

# Relevant, individual learning



“I like to go on the computer. I like to do maths and English, health and wellbeing. In my spare time I like to look at Dr Who.”

Michael, age 17

“I’ve designed a penthouse. I’ve been checking the prices of a bathtub big enough for eight people – a Jacuzzi.”

Connor, age 17

## Every child learns differently

At Daldorch, your child’s learning is designed specifically for them. We carefully assess their abilities, strengths and challenges, and by finding out what interests and motivates them and working closely with our support for learning colleagues, we engage them in their learning. Through the curriculum we help your child to become a successful learner, a confident individual, a responsible citizen and an effective contributor.

As an autism-specific school, our classes are six to eight pupils. If your child has a residential placement with us, they learn in a class that mirrors the group of young people they live with. Your child’s curriculum runs throughout the waking day so that the learning that takes place in the classroom transfers into a range of settings.

## Our curriculum

As part of our **MyProgress®** curriculum we plan and assess learning, using Curriculum for Excellence, so that it is relevant, functional and engaging, and designed to develop your child’s independence as they mature. Lifelong learning becomes our particular focus as our young people approach adult life.

We have eight curriculum areas: literacy, maths, health and wellbeing, science, technologies, expressive arts, social studies, and religious and moral education. We deliver these curriculum areas across all levels of development.

## Animal-assisted activities

Our animal-assisted activities’ programme is exciting, fun and brings our young people enormous benefits. Animals are non-judgmental, and interacting with them can give your child confidence and skills without being aware that they are learning.

## Clubs and activities

We encourage your child to take part in a wide range of activities from volunteering to sport, from wildlife to cooking. We also do a wide range of outdoor and adventurous activities, which are valuable in helping your child increase their self-confidence, their ability to solve problems, their co-ordination and physical stamina. All of these benefits are excellent preparation for moving into adulthood.

“We are constantly looking at the needs of each young person and we try to match the staff to those needs.”

Linda Ferguson, Head of Education

# Our learning and living environment

## Our school

Daldorch House School is in rural East Ayrshire – an hour’s drive from Glasgow and beside the village of Catrine. Our 11-acre estate is beautiful, and our young people benefit hugely from its space and calm.

Although our estate is large, our school and residential buildings are close together: living and learning at Daldorch are bound together, and we hope your child will feel at home and well-understood here.

## Residential care

Our residential service gives your child a place of safety and trust among people who are as committed as you are to creating a welcoming home. We’ll help your child to build strong relationships and to share their home and school with others.

Your child will live and learn with their peers, so that their communication is well supported and they are with the young people with whom they feel most comfortable. Our curriculum runs 24 hours a day: everyone who supports your child will use the same strategies and approaches.

Each of our houses is home to four young people, each of whom has their own bedroom. The two houses are adjoined, with a staff base between them. We offer 28 places to young people aged 8 to 21, and residential care is available for up to 52 weeks a year.

## Daldorch Satellite School, South Lanarkshire

Our satellite school in East Kilbride, which is in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, is a year-round residential provision which supports young people with autism in the South Lanarkshire local authority area. Your child can live and learn within a reasonable distance of your family home, go out and about in an area they are familiar with, remain supported by health professionals from within the same Health Board and enjoy more frequent visits from their family.

“We’re lucky the campus has so much space: it offers a calming environment for young people.”

Jane Eaglesham, Lead Principal Teacher



“Ali has now been at Daldorch House for seven years, coming home every weekend at first and over the last two years coming home fortnightly. He has grown up with two loving homes, surrounded by understanding, support and total dedication. How lucky is he?”

Parent



Learning,  
socialising, and  
communicating  
at school is part of  
**MyProgress<sup>®</sup>**



Building trusting,  
long-term  
relationships is part  
of **MyProgress**<sup>®</sup>

# Our rigorous approach



## Education Scotland says that Daldorch is a nurturing environment

Regular care inspections of all our services are undertaken by the Care Inspectorate. Education Scotland have also given us a really positive report. They praised:

- our staff, children and young people's trusting relationships
- the way we identify and understand our young people's learning needs
- our knowledge and understanding of autism spectrum disorders
- the way we're using the Curriculum for Excellence with our young people
- our very good communication with parents and carers.

## Research

Every approach we use at Daldorch is based on tried and tested methods and built on a foundation of solid evidence. We are always interested in developing knowledge about autism and finding new ways to support our young people: taking part in research projects gives us the chance to do just that.

Our curriculum for 18-21 year olds was developed through an international Comenius project, looking at models for lifelong learning. We collaborated with a school in Norway and two in Denmark and together developed a curriculum model with very functional areas of learning.

Our speech and language therapist's doctorate includes research on how yoga can benefit children with autism. She runs daily yoga sessions with classes and individuals and is making objective appraisals of their effects on each young person's physical abilities, confidence and readiness to learn.

## Systematic and thorough

When we work with your child at Daldorch, we use approaches that have been tried and tested. We know they're effective and will help your child because they're based on sound research and evidence.

We tailor every child's learning to their needs, and with **MyProgress®**, we will assess your child regularly, plan the approaches and strategies that will work best for them, deliver them, and monitor your child's progress. We're systematic and thorough, and every day we'll be doing the best for your child.

Education Scotland said in 2012 that our school has excellent systems for identifying young people's strengths and the difficulties they face. It noted that all young people at Daldorch have a comprehensive set of plans, including an IECP, which highlights their strengths, development needs and targets for the year.

# Supporting families and young people



Caroline Clark, Senior Team Leader

## Short breaks

Our short breaks are the perfect chance for your child to have a holiday and do the activities they enjoy, supported at all times by people who understand autism. We offer a wide range of activities including local walks, day trips, swimming, physical activities on our meadow, and cooking, art and leisure.

Many children who are not pupils at Daldorch benefit from our short breaks. We'll assess your child to find out what they'd like to do, so that we can give them all the support they need while they are with us. Our specialist staff will make sure they enjoy their holiday from start to finish.

Our short breaks service supports day pupils and young people aged 8 to 21 who do not attend Daldorch House School. It's ideal if your child uses our outreach service as they will already know our team. We run our short breaks throughout the year in our dedicated short breaks house.

## Outreach

If your child has a diagnosis of autism or a related condition and lives within 50 miles of our school, our outreach team can help them take part in leisure and education. For example, we can help them to attend school or work with a tutor, learn daily living skills, volunteer or spend time with others.

We work with young people aged 5 to 25 and every member of our team is trained and experienced in working with children and young people with autism.

**“A short break isn't school, it's a break: it's time away from home and school.”**

Caroline Clark, Senior Team Leader,  
Outreach and Short Breaks Service



Always being  
included is part  
of **MyProgress**<sup>®</sup>

# Applying to Daldorch House



“In the years since Ross has been a pupil at Daldorch, we have never doubted that his education was of the utmost importance. No amount of effort was ever considered too great, and no problem insurmountable. All staff involved in his care and education have shown an unwavering loyalty to and faith in Ross’s abilities. All this makes the sacrifice of allowing him to stay away from home from a relatively young age worthwhile.”

Parent

## Find out more about us

We offer education to young people aged 8 to 21 with autism who have been referred by their local authority.

If you think our school might be the right place for your child to learn, we suggest you contact us to find out more about what we provide, or to arrange a visit so you can see what we do.

## Making an application

If you decide you would like to apply, you need to discuss your child’s needs with your local authority, and make a joint application. Once you have made your application, we will assess your child.

There are several steps to the application process. We can explain them to you and there is a chart showing the process on our website – [www.daldorchhouseschool.org.uk](http://www.daldorchhouseschool.org.uk).



The National Autistic Society is the UK's leading charity for people affected by autism.

We were founded in 1962 by a group of parents who were passionate about ensuring a better future for their children. Today, our UK-wide network of specialist schools and education services gives hundreds of children and young people the opportunity to grow and learn in a reassuring environment, with teachers and support staff who understand their needs.

For over 50 years, we've built our success on the principle that every child that passes through our doors is unique. Each student has their own support programme based around their needs and ambitions. Together with them and their families, we're building the better future that our founders hoped for.

The National Autistic Society  
393 City Road  
London EC1V 1NG  
Switchboard: 020 7833 2299  
Email: [nas@nas.org.uk](mailto:nas@nas.org.uk)  
[www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

**You can get help from the following telephone services:**

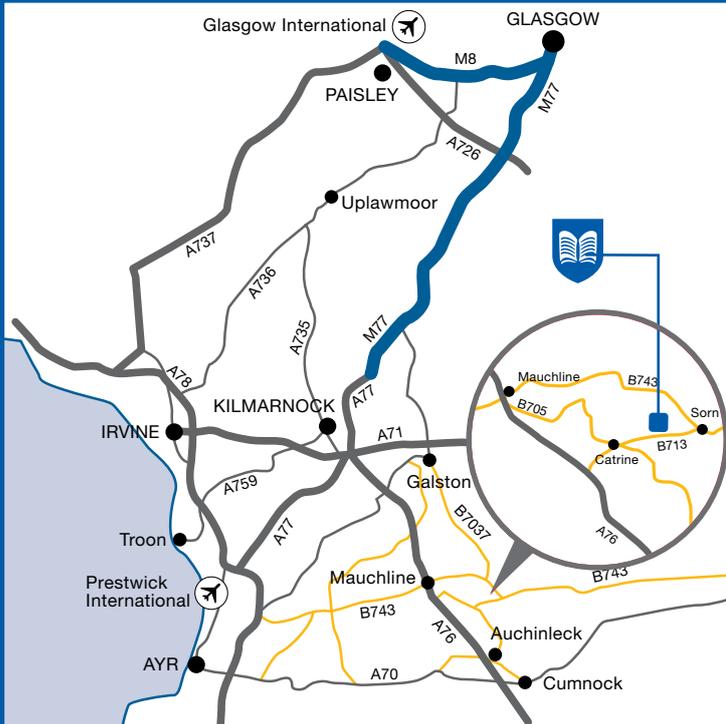
Autism Helpline: 0808 800 4104

Education Rights Service:  
0808 800 4102  
(leave a message)

Parent to Parent Service:  
0808 800 4106  
(leave a message)



# Daldorch House School



If you have any questions or want to find out more about our school, please feel free to contact us.

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