

**Shapwick Prep** (linked to Shapwick School in senior section)

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**Writer:** Mr GW Bishop

Shapwick Prep, Mark Road, Burtle, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 8NJ

Tel: 01278 722012

Fax: 01278 723312

e-mail: [edington@edingtonshapwick.co.uk](mailto:edington@edingtonshapwick.co.uk)

Website: [www.edingtonshapwick.co.uk](http://www.edingtonshapwick.co.uk)

**Pupils:** 33 boys (15 boarders); 16 girls (5 boarders) **Ages:** 8-13

**Status:** Independent

**Denomination:** Non-denominational

**Open Days:** 3 times a year: October, March and May/June. Usually held over 2 days.

**Fees:** £4, 617(day); £6,374 (boarding)

Local Education Authority: Somerset

**Joint Heads:** See entry for senior school. Margaret Kingham, experienced deputy head, leads teaching team here.

**Entrance:** Pupils can join at any stage. Open days include opportunity for applicants to be assessed to ascertain level of need. Mostly via tribunal process but some enter privately or in mid-process depending on need or desperation.

**Exit:** Almost wholly to senior school though a few may re-enter mainstream education.

**Money Matters:** Statemented pupils have fees paid by LAs including therapy sessions. Parents pay extra for uniform and trips.

**Remarks:** Re-branded as Shapwick Prep: provides small scale, specialist education way out on Somerset Levels. School has become centre of excellence for SpLD - works closely with the Hornsby Centre, receives students from Exeter university and elsewhere. Site includes former farmhouse and village school, a collection of Portakabins and a purpose-built complex for youngest children plus therapy rooms known as the ARC (assessment and resource centre).

Pupils have English and maths classes all morning; therapy sessions arranged throughout day in ARC – withdrawal negotiated with staff. Remainder of day largely cross-curricular work, includes lots of sport, art and music. Lovely science lab with specialist teaching from senior school. Small classes throughout school and plenty of 1:1.

School is welcoming and visually attractive with lots of stimulating display work. Super outside play and activity area as well as large playing field. Loads of ICT including individual laptops for pupils.

Focus here on tackling SpLD within supportive, friendly environment. Children seem relaxed and confident. Super solution for those lucky enough to have the right funding at this earlier stage in schooling.