

What is it like inside

HMP Winchester ?



A children's guide by
Spurgeons
Invisible Walls

Spurgeons
Together with families



What is prison?

Some people say that it is a place where adults have to go for 'time out' but instead of sitting on a step or going to their room they have to do their 'time out' in prison. All prisons are different in the way that they look, some are new and some are old. We understand that prison can be a strange and unknown place and maybe a little scary, especially if you don't know what it looks like inside.

How are you feeling?

Knowing that your dad is in HMP Winchester can leave you feeling lots of different emotions like sadness and anger and you may not want to talk about how you feel.

We have made this booklet to show and explain different places in the prison that your dad sees. Together you can talk about them to help you understand a little more.

Circle any of the emoji faces below that show how you are feeling right now.



Let's take a trip inside together...



Wooden entrance gates

This is the main entrance to the prison. When your dad arrived at HMP Winchester he came through these gates. You may have walked past them if you have been here for a visit.



Reception

This is the reception area where your dad came to be checked in to prison. The officers would have asked him if he was ok and he would have been able to make a phone call to let you all know where he was. He would then be given clothing and information to take with him.



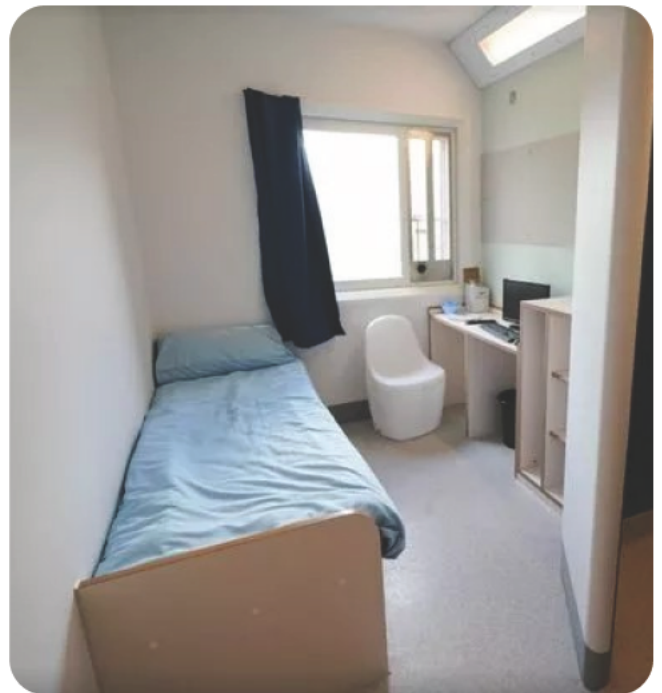


Wings and landings

This is called a wing. In HMP Winchester we have A, B, C and D wings. Each of the wings has four landings or levels. They have long walkways with cells (rooms) all the way along on each side. You could ask your dad which wing he is on.

Cell/room

A cell is a room where your dad will spend a lot of his time. He has a sink, toilet, TV and a phone too. He can put up cards and pictures that you have sent him on his wall to make it nicer. Sometimes he might share with another man and they can sleep in bunkbeds or he can have a room on his own. Your dad will have a room like this. Maybe you can ask him about it.



Induction room

The induction room is where the men go on their first day in prison. An induction officer explains all about the prison, what activities there are to do and when they can do them. They can answer lots of questions on how to do things like being able to phone you and have visits with you.

Places to go and things to do



Gym

Does your dad like exercising? Maybe he uses one of the gyms here? In the weights room he can use all the equipment or have a session in the sports hall and take part in team sports like football and volleyball.

Exercise yard

The exercise yard is an area outside, still in the prison, that men can walk around everyday and get some fresh air.



Education

Prisons have schools so the men can take part in classes to learn different and sometimes new things. Is this classroom a bit like yours at school?



Jobs and places to work

In HMP Winchester there are lots of different jobs that the men can do. It's good to work because it keeps people busy and they are able to earn some money.

Here are some of the places your dad might work.



Kitchens

are where the men help the staff cook all the meals for the whole prison and do all the washing up.

Gardens

The men need to make sure the outside areas are kept tidy, all the grass is cut and the flowers are looked after.



Wing work

is a job on the wing (the corridor you live on). It might include cleaning, painting, sorting the laundry and serving meals to the other men.

Workshops

are where the men work making a range of different things to be sent out to businesses. This workshop makes sandbags which are used all over the country to try and stop houses flooding in bad weather.



Orderlies

are men who are allowed to work in different areas around the prison to help other men and staff.



There are lots of jobs in prison. Ask your dad what his job is, and write it down below.

Library



The prison has a library that your dad can visit or order books or DVDs from if he likes reading or watching films. Why not ask your dad if he has been here and what films he has watched or books he has read.



Multi faith room/ chapel

The multi faith space and chapel is a quiet place where men of different religious beliefs, or no belief, are able to spend time thinking or praying. The men can also go there if they want to talk and share things that are bothering them.





Healthcare

This is the prison doctors' surgery. The men can ask to see a doctor or a nurse if they are not feeling well. There is also a dentist here too.

Video call room

Have you had a video Call?

You and your dad can book a time with the prison to be able to face time each other. This is one of the rooms that he can have the visit in.



If you come to visit your dad, this will be your journey into the Visits Hall to see him:

Visitors' centre



This is where you can have a drink and some biscuits before your visit and use the toilet. Our volunteers will be here, and you can ask them any questions that you might have. When it is time for your visit the volunteers will walk you down past the big brown wooden doors and up some steps to the search area.



Search area



The search area is very similar to one that you would see in an airport. Anything that you have in your pockets will have to be put into a locker as you can't take anything with you into the Visits Hall. You can collect these things on your way out after the visit.

You will be asked to walk through the metal detector. It may beep, but do not worry if it does.

One of the staff may ask if they can search you. This means they will ask you to stand like a star fish and put their hands along your arms and legs.

Next you will be asked to sit on a chair so the search dogs can be walked around you. This is all part of journey to be able for you to come into the prison.

You will then be taken through to the Visits Hall.



Visits Hall

This is where you can give your dad a hug and sit and talk to him. Some of the prison rules mean that your dad has to stay in his seat but you are allowed to sit with him.

There is an amazing play area where you can play or collect toys & games to take to the table to do with your dad.

If you have already seen your dad in prison you will recognise these photos.



Some questions that children ask their dads about prison:

What food do you eat?

The men in prison get a menu so that they can pick from a small selection for their lunch and tea.

- Breakfast-cereal and milk
- Lunch-could be a sandwich and crisps or a sausage roll
- Tea-could be fish, chips and beans or curry and rice with a pudding.

Maybe you could ask your dad what he has ordered for his meals this week.

Are there bars on your windows or doors?

Here is an example of the windows, they are made from special glass that is very strong and do not open but at both sides there are vents that can be opened to let the air in.



This is an example of a cell/room door. It isn't a lot different to the front door of a house, just stronger and with a small glass window.



After looking through this booklet circle some of the emojis or tick some words to show how you feel now.



| | | | |
|--------------|---------|-------------|------------|
| Happy | Sad | Angry | Scared |
| Shocked | Gross | Loving | Worried |
| Hopeful | Ashamed | Sorry | Proud |
| Envious | Calm | Heartbroken | Relieved |
| Disappointed | Caring | Shy | Frustrated |
| Amazed | Lonely | Excited | Curious |

We really hope this booklet has helped to explain and show you different parts of the prison and to understand a bit more about where you dad is. You may still have some worries, so if you do, start by writing them down or drawing as many of them as you can think of in the bag below. They can be big, small or things that sound completely outrageous, it doesn't matter.



It's really good to talk about the things that are worrying you, no matter how big or small. Think about the people you can talk to, to help you empty out your bag of worries.

Mum

Sisters

Teachers

Dad

Grandparents

Social Workers

Brothers

Aunts & Uncles

Friends

Always remember that even though your dad is in prison he is still a part of your life and loves you.

Change can feel scary but you are strong and remember that there are people who will listen and make sure you're ok.

