



Welcome to Mereside Primary School and Children's Centre

Dear Parents

Welcome to Mereside Primary School. I hope this Prospectus will tell you all you need to know about the work of the school and give you a flavour of what a special place it is. At Mereside we value highly the partnership between home and school and encourage all parents to take an active part in their child's education. We sum this up in our vision statement, 'Learning Together, Achieving Together'.

We are proud of our pupils and their positive attitudes to school. This was recognised by Ofsted in their visit in March 2013; they commented: 'Pupils behave well and are keen to learn....Pupils are polite, courteous and show respect for adults and each other.' We promote values such as respect, perseverance and resilience and aim to ensure that all children achieve to the best of their ability, whatever their needs may be.

We have a team of dedicated staff who work really hard to provide the best education they can for the children. If you would like to help or have any concerns please come and see us. We are always pleased to talk to you and hear your views.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Bamber
Principal

Mrs S Upton
Deputy Principal

Mrs J Walpole
Assistant Principal/Inclusion Lead

OUR SCHOOL

We provide education for children from 3 to 11, when they transfer to the High School of their choice. We are not affiliated to any church but we offer a Christian based education. We have a nursery which can accept up to 26 children each session.

Mereside School is a place of learning where children enjoy their work, where there is an atmosphere of happiness, security and confidence in adults, where each child is helped to realise his or her full potential. We pride ourselves in our work supporting pupil guidance and welfare.

ADMISSIONS

Children can enter Nursery from the start of the term after their third birthday. Entry to the Main School is in the September of the school year that they turn five years of age. The Local Authority sets the Admissions procedure. Parents may appeal to an independent tribunal if refused a place.

School Vision and Aims

Our Vision:

Learning Together, Achieving Together

Our Aims:

1. To ensure everyone feels valued and respected and has an equal chance to do their best
2. To help children develop a positive attitude, self-respect and respect for others, and learn to take responsibility for their own actions
3. To understand and meet children's individual needs, especially those of vulnerable pupils
4. To ensure all achievements are recognised and celebrated
5. To create a caring, safe, purposeful and calm environment which promotes children's wellbeing
6. To develop positive and supportive relationships between children, parents, school and the wider community

School Times	School Lunchtimes	Nursery Times
School Starts at 8.45 am (Doors Open at 8.35 am)	Reception 11.30 – 12.30 Infants 12.00 – 12.55	Morning Session 8.30 – 11.30 Afternoon Session 12.00 – 3.00
School Ends at 3.15 pm	Juniors 12.25 – 1.15	

PLEASE TRY TO BE AT SCHOOL ON TIME



But remember it is better to come late than not at all!

For safety reasons children should not arrive at school until 8.30 a.m. There are no adults available before then to supervise the outdoor areas. Children (and parents!) are welcome to come to the café in the Children's Centre, where breakfast is available from 8:00 am. Doors open at 8.35 a.m. when children are able to come into their classrooms, up to 8.45 when doors close. If your child arrives after this time they should come to the school office where they can be 'signed in'.

For the safety of the children, the school gates are closed at the beginning and end of the school day. Parents are able to park on Langdale Rd but please avoid the zig-zag lines immediately outside school. During the day, visitors to the school or Children's Centre are welcome to park on the car park.

Breaktimes

Except when the weather is bad, children play outside during break and lunch times. Adequate outdoor clothing and footwear is essential.

Healthy Tuck Shop

We have a healthy tuck shop which sells a selection of fruit and healthy snacks during morning break time. The tuck shop is organised by the Y6 children.

Absences

It is very important that you let us know each time your child is absent from school.

It helps us to be informed of a child's absence as soon as the absence commences, either by telephone, written or verbal message. In this way, we know why your child is not at school.



Please send a note to the class teacher, or telephone the school office, if your child is going to be absent, will arrive late or needs to leave school because of an 'emergency' appointment during the day. Children must be collected by an adult known to school unless written permission is given for someone else to do so. Please help us to keep your child safe.

Holidays in Term Time

In line with guidance from the Department of Education, Mereside School will not authorise any holiday in term time, unless it is for exceptional reasons.

Schools are closed for 13 weeks a year. Parent/carers have 175 days in which to take holidays outside of school hours. If parents wish to take a holiday in term-time they can submit an application for consideration. If the Headteacher feels exceptional circumstances apply then the holiday may be authorised. Parents taking their children out of school for a holiday of 5 days or more (10 school sessions) without authorisation will, in conjunction with the Pupil Welfare Officer, be issued with a penalty notice (please see the Attendance Policy – you will find it on our website under the Policies section of the Parents' Zone menu).

Social and Pastoral Care

The social and emotional development of all children is carefully monitored during their time in school. Class teachers together with the Headteacher are responsible for the pastoral care of children in their classes.

When dealing with anti-social behaviour we act as you would expect responsible parents to act under similar circumstances. Problems are dealt with sympathetically and when necessary, parents are involved to resolve the matter effectively.

If there is anything you feel may be affecting your child's education, please contact school and make an appointment to discuss the matter with the class teacher or Headteacher.

When a child joins us at Mereside, parents are asked to supply details of where they can be contacted during the day in case of accident or illness. If an emergency should arise we will make every effort to contact parents or their nominated representative, and inform them of the problem.

Please ensure that you inform the school of any changes in your emergency contact details. It is especially important that we have up-to-date mobile numbers as from time-to-time we send messages to parents via text.

Please do not send children to school if they are unwell. Staff are not allowed to issue medication to the pupils, except in the circumstances described in the Medical Policy (available on the website). If your child needs to have medication during the day, please contact the Headteacher.

The day to day contact with children means that schools are particularly well placed to observe the outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour, or failure to develop. Parents should be aware, therefore, that where it appears to a member of staff that a child may have been abused, the school is required, as part of the local Child Protection Procedures, to report their concern to the Social Services Department immediately. The Designated Child Protection Officer is Mrs L Lawrence.

Parental Involvement

- 'Parent Helpers' are welcome throughout the school and we are very keen to encourage as many parents as possible to become directly involved in the life of the school and their child's education. Any skills or talents you can offer in or out of school time will be welcome.
- If you are interested in helping in school, or joining our PTFA, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.
- Although there is no formal PTA at Mereside, we are grateful for the support we receive from parents and friends at fund raising events we hold during the year. Interested parents should contact Mrs Diver.
- We hold regular Parents' Forum meetings to discuss school issues, which all parents are welcome to attend.

Newsletters

Regular newsletters are sent home with the children and are posted on our website. They will keep you informed of what is happening in school and give you details of specific events and projects. Please find time to read the information and do ask for further details if anything is unclear. We like to receive your news too. Please keep us informed.

Uniform

We do have a uniform at Mereside which makes the children look very smart. All children wear the uniform. It consists of grey skirt/trousers with a royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan. Infant children wear white polo shirts and junior children wear a white shirt with the school tie – royal blue with a yellow stripe. Sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts with the school badge are available from the school office. In the interests of health and hygiene please ensure that your child wears shoes rather than trainers or boots. Heels on shoes need to be as low as possible.

All uniform and kit should be clearly labelled.

All children need a pump bag containing:

a pair of royal blue shorts,
white vest or T-shirt,
pumps for P.E./Games lessons.

Shorts and white t-shirts are available from the school office.

Outdoor games kit is also needed by the older children.

No jewellery (except watches and stud earrings) is allowed in school.

Staff cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage.

Remember please - precious items are best left at home

Hair

Hair must be worn in a reasonable, smart style for school. It must not be spiked, dyed with bright colours, have designs shaved into it or be worn in a manner deemed unsuitable by the Headteacher.

School Meals

School meals are provided by the local authority, prepared on-site in our kitchen. Menus are available from the School Office.

All infant children are eligible to receive free school meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative that was implemented in September 2014.

Meals for juniors cost £2 per day (£10 per week), dinner money is payable on Monday morning and should be sent in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class.

If you think that you may be entitled to free school meals please complete an application form. Forms are available from the school office, via our website or from www.blackpool.gov.uk. You can also contact the Free School Meals Claims Team on 01253 478940 further details.

We receive additional funding (the Pupil Premium) for children who are entitled to free school meals – it is really important that you complete a claim form even if your child will not be having a school meal; this includes infant children who are entitled to free meals anyway. We use the additional funding to ensure that all children have the same opportunity to achieve their best.

Children not taking a school meal may go home for their lunch or bring a packed lunch. Please make sure all containers are unbreakable and labelled. Remember for safety's sake no glass bottles or cans are allowed. Sweets, chocolate (other than a chocolate biscuit) and fizzy drinks are not allowed.

Changes to lunchtime arrangements should only be made at the start of each new term or after we have received two weeks notice in writing.

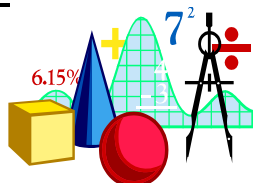


Milk all children are entitled to free milk each day. If your child does not like milk, water is available in school.

Fruit Infant children get a piece of fresh fruit or carrot sticks free of charge each day.

Breakfast All children are offered a free breakfast each day – usually malt loaf, fruit, cereal bars, etc, and a drink of water.

THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM



We aim to give each child as broad and relevant an education as possible. In doing so we hope to develop fully the abilities and skills which each child possesses. Work is planned to cater for the needs of each child, to develop their intellectual, social, moral, spiritual, physical and aesthetic potential.

Opportunities are provided to enable each child to develop skills and interests. These take place both within the classroom and outside, through visits and extra curricular activities.

Throughout the course of the year a number of educational visits are arranged to enhance the school curriculum. All children are encouraged to participate. To make these visits possible we rely upon voluntary donations from parents.

The Curriculum is designed to follow the programme of study set out in the National Curriculum guidelines.

Early Years children are taught the Foundation Stage curriculum

Subjects taught as the National Curriculum Core Subjects are:

English (including Phonics; we follow the Letters and Sounds and Phonics Bug schemes)
Mathematics
Science
ICT

Others are the National Curriculum Foundation Subjects of:

Art
Geography
History
Music
Physical Education
Design Technology
Modern Foreign Languages (French)

In addition, your child will study Religious Education, which will reflect a broadly Christian tradition. Parents are permitted to withdraw their children from assembly and religious instruction in consultation with the Headteacher. Alternative provision should be offered to the child.

This does not form the complete curriculum, and other areas such as Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) will be included as and when considered appropriate.

Information about the school curriculum is available on the website.

Parental Responsibility and Expectations

Parents are asked to take a responsible positive approach to their child's learning by encouraging and helping their child with homework and ensuring that homework is completed, well presented and handed in on time. When parents help their child to develop Literacy and Numeracy skills and show a positive approach, their child learns at a quicker rate.

Staff at Mereside are willing to help and discuss the strategies and skills to enable parents to take an active part in their child's learning.

Homework

Homework is set each week and there is a gradual increase in the amount of work being set as the children move through the school. Parents are asked to make sure that homework is completed and returned on time.



Sex Education

The policy of the school is that the content and organisation of sex education is incorporated in the general Health Education and Science teaching programmes. Parents are informed of any specific projects of sex education and are invited to view any video programmes to be shown to the children. The Personal Relationships Education (PRE) Policy is available on our website.

Collective Worship

School carries out its statutory duties having collective worship every day. Assemblies are broadly of a Christian nature, although some aspects of all the major religions are reflected upon from time to time.

If parents who for religious reasons do not want their child to take part they should contact the Headteacher.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school staff organise various extra curricular activities which widen the educational experience of our children. These activities vary from time to time depending on the age of the children, the time of year and the interests/involvement of staff.

Music Lessons

The school offers children the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument for a small charge. The children have weekly lessons from a music teacher appointed by the LEA and from our own Music teacher.

CHARGES FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We consider educational visits to be an important part of your child's education. When organising outings we shall write to you stating the purpose and cost of a proposed visit. If necessary we will invite parents to make a donation towards this cost. If enough funds cannot be raised then the visit will be cancelled and all donations refunded. Please refer to our Charging and Remissions Policy (Policies section of Parents' Zone menu on our website).



COMPLAINTS

The school strives to do its best for the children in every aspect of school life. Should there be a complaint this can be made to the Headteacher or the Local Authority (Tel. 476555) or to the Chair of Governors in school.

BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE

Formal rules within school are kept as few as possible, respect for others and safety for all being the basis of all rules. When problems do occur they are dealt with sympathetically and parents involved when necessary. Parents are asked to co-operate in ensuring that the school rules are maintained.

A caring attitude is fostered in the children which encourages respect for all staff, their fellow pupils and property.

A system of team points (Mereside Marvels) and merit awards operates in school to promote team spirit, hard work, courtesy, helpfulness and effort. The 'Traffic Light system' is followed in all classes leading to Golden Time for an hour on a Friday when children can take part in a range of activities in mixed-age groups. For more details please see the Behaviour Policy.

The children have drawn up a School Charter which each class has signed up to:

Mereside Primary **School Charter**

We promise to...

***Respect our school and the people in it.
Always treat others as we would wish to be
treated.***

Try our best in everything we do.

Make smart choices.

Be keen and stay on green!



GOVERNORS

The Governors meet each term and have a range of responsibilities for the school.

They are appointed to:

- (i) Set standards of behaviour
- (ii) Decide what is taught
- (iii) Select staff
- (iv) Decide how to spend the school budget

Committees have been formed to manage each aspect of the school's function.

Minutes of all meetings of the Governing Body are available for parents on request to the Headteacher. Please see the Governing Body section of our website for current membership details.