



Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School
'Achieving Together'



Welcome to Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School

Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School is a school that is firmly at the heart of its community. We are a school where individuals are valued and children, parents, staff and governors work tirelessly to achieve together.

We are a happy and successful school that is committed to children's well-being, high academic achievement and developing a sense of community. We take great pride in the inclusive and nurturing environment that we provide and which allows our children to grow into confident, resilient and inquisitive individuals.

We have an exciting curriculum that is carefully sequenced to provide the foundations of learning that give our children the knowledge and skills to be successful. We place great emphasis on enriching the curriculum with visitors, educational visits, memorable moments and residential experiences.

I would love to invite you to come and have a look around our fantastic school and look forward to building successful partnerships with our wonderful families and children.

Mr D Lucey, Headteacher

“Pupils are happy at Derwent Vale. They get a warm welcome each morning from caring, cheerful staff. Classrooms are fun, interesting places of learning.”

OFSTED 2019



Our School Aims



At Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School, we aim to:

- Give every learner the confidence to achieve their full potential by setting high expectations and by making the learning experience challenging, enjoyable and interesting
- Provide a broad, balanced, extensive and inclusive curriculum, which provides a wide variety of experiences for all
- Develop learning through partnership with children, parents and the wider community
- Provide an environment that is inspiring, rich and structured, that is well planned, well organised and is both safe and caring
- Maintain a committed and expert staff to deliver the curriculum
- Develop and maintain the school grounds to cater safely for the physical, social and educational development of all pupils



Curriculum



Our curriculum offer is carefully sequenced, builds on prior skills and knowledge and is unapologetically ambitious.

Mastery Maths is taught using the Maths No Problem approach. Children are taught a daily maths lessons that sequentially builds on prior knowledge and skills. Key concepts are revisited numerous times to consolidate learning.

Reading is a huge part of our school. Children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are taught to read using the hugely successful Read Write Inc. phonics scheme. On completion of Read Write Inc. children receive daily reading lessons and are encouraged to read for pleasure. We use the Accelerated Reader programme to help develop our independent reading skills, children enjoy reading at home and completing fun reading quizzes in school.

Children experience daily writing lessons where they sequentially build their writing skills. We use high-quality extracts and class novels to model the skills of writing.

Science is taught in blocks of learning covering the full national curriculum. Children experience practical investigations which develop their skills of working scientifically. We believe in outdoor learning and utilise our extensive outdoor learning environment to take our learning outside.

Children are taught all of the foundation subjects: Art and Design, Computing, Design and Technology, Languages, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE). We are very fortunate to be located so close to numerous geographical and historical places of interest. Children experience the Roman Empire through the lens of the Roman footprint in Cumbria and enjoy studying the physical and human geography of the Lake District.

Behaviour

We expect the highest standards of behaviour and good manners from every member of our school community. We promote respect and courtesy throughout our school. We actively encourage good behaviour and attitudes and any unacceptable behaviour is discouraged. A solid framework and a positive approach to behaviour management will help our children to flourish in a safe and secure environment.

Our aim is for children to be happy and caring in a school environment where everyone has the opportunity to achieve the very highest standards. It is a calm school, in which children behave well and show respect and consideration for others. We provide the right atmosphere for high levels of achievement.

We aim to do all of this in partnership with parents/carers and the wider community.

Performance and Assessment

Standard tests were re-started in 2022 following the Covid-19 pandemic.

We constantly assess each child to support teaching and learning within our school. Having a comprehensive understanding of their individual development ensures that we can meet the needs of every child.

Extra-curricular activities



We actively encourage participation in a range of extra-curricular activities which are organised by school. Some recent examples of extra-curricular clubs have been:

- Tennis club
- Multi-sports club
- Young Voices club
- Bright Stars

The School Day

Our school day starts at 8.45am and ends at 3pm.

Starting the school day on time is very important and persistent lateness will be challenged.

Breakfast club is available daily from 7.45am and after school club is available daily until 5pm.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We recognise each child as an individual who develops at their own pace and has their own needs. We aim to identify any special educational needs a child may have as soon as possible. A full copy of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy is available on the school's website.

If a concern is raised by the child's class teacher the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo) is notified. The SENDCo and class teaching team then try to meet the emerging need through high-quality teaching and evidence informed intervention programmes, these are shared with the child and their parents. School uses a graduated approach to SEND. If the school based interventions are unsuccessful then a further meeting is arranged and an individual plan is put into action following the Early Help process. If further support is identified by the school and outside agencies then the school will begin the process of applying for an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Parents are involved at all stages of the process and will be asked to support their child's progress.



The School Year



2022-2023

Autumn Term 2022

Start of term	Wednesday 7th September
Half term	Monday 24th to Friday 28th October
End of term	Tuesday 20th December

Spring Term 2023

Start of term	Wednesday 4th January
Half term	Monday 20th to Friday 24th February
End of term	Friday 31st March

Summer Term 2023

Start of term	Monday 17th April
Good Friday	Friday 7th April
Easter Monday	Monday 10th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May
Half term	Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
End of term	Wednesday 19th July

2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

Start of term	Wednesday 6th September
Half term	Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October
End of term	Tuesday 19th December

Spring Term 2024

Start of term	Wednesday 3rd January
Half term	Monday 12th to Friday 16th February
End of term	Thursday 28th March

Summer Term 2024

Start of term	Tuesday 16th April
Good Friday	Friday 29th March
Easter Monday	Monday 1st April
Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May
Half term	Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May
End of term	Friday 19th July

The School Team



School Staff

Headteacher	Mr D Lucey
Teaching staff	Mr G O'Townson Mrs E Heron Miss H Steel Mrs N Steel Miss H Greer
Trainee teacher	Mrs H Simpson
Support staff	Miss S Atkinson Mrs L Fletcher Miss A Cowan Miss T Cowx Mrs L Carter Miss D White Miss S Wilson Miss D Thompson Miss S Steel Miss A Varty
School Business Manager	Mrs M Robson
Midday Supervisors	Mrs K Moore Mrs J Creighton
Kitchen staff	Miss S Nicholson
Cleaning staff	Mrs L Graham Mrs P Waite

Governing Body

Chair of Governors	Mrs J Gregg
Vice Chair of Governors	Mrs S Fleming
Headteacher	Mr D Lucey
Staff Governor	Mr G O'Townson
Local Authority Governor	Ms G Roach
Parent Governors	Mrs M Taylor Miss C Rogers
Co-opted Governors	Mrs L Graham Mrs S King Miss N Tweddle

Uniform



We have high expectations of our pupils' appearance at Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School and a school uniform should be worn.

The school uniform consists of:

- Black or grey trousers or skirt
- Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan with optional school logo
- Pale blue or dark blue polo shirt with optional school logo
- Blue checked summer dress
- Black shoes

Uniform items featuring the Derwent Vale school logo can be ordered online from AS Design:

<https://asdesignwebshop.com/collections/derwent-vale-school>

Jewellery (apart from a watch) or acrylic/false nails are not allowed to be worn to school due to the risk of injury to the wearer and others around them.



School Policies



Site Security

The safety of your child whilst they are in our care is of paramount importance. The school site is protected by fencing and locked gates which can only be accessed by a staff key fob or a request to the school office for entry. The school grounds are continually monitored by CCTV. All external doors with access from the outside are fitted with thumb locks on the inside. The school site is non-smoking and we do not allow dogs.

School Meals

School meals are provided by Orian. The meals are cooked on the premises in our 5 star hygiene rated kitchen. School meals cost £2.70 per day (£1.70 for nursery children) and should be ordered and paid for in advance using the online Lunch Shop system.

In September 2014, the government introduced free school meals for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 regardless of their circumstances. However, if you do qualify for benefits-related free school meals and you have a child in one of these year groups, please do still apply as this provides extra funding for school to help your child. Please contact the school office for more information.

Packed Lunches

If your child would like to bring a packed lunch instead of ordering a school meal, please note that we encourage healthy eating and your child's packed lunch should reflect this. No fizzy drinks or sweets (including chocolate bars) are allowed to be brought in to school. More detailed packed lunch guidance can be requested from the school office.

Absences from School

When unavoidable absence due to illness occurs, parents/carers should contact the school office via telephone or email by 9.30am on the first day of the absence. If no notification is received, school will contact the parent/carer by telephone. If contact cannot be made, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Every effort should be taken to make medical appointments outside of school hours. If this cannot be avoided, school should have plenty of advance notice of the appointment and children should be collected from school by a parent/carer.

Due to changes in the law, headteachers are no longer able to authorise holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any requests for term time holidays should be put in writing and sent to the headteacher and these will be considered on an individual basis.

Medication

We do not usually give medication to children during school hours. However, if a child is prescribed medication that needs to be taken 4 times per day, then school will administer it. The medication must be in the original packaging displaying the named prescription sticker and a parent/carer must complete the school permission form. All medication must be prescribed by a doctor.

If a child has an ongoing specific need, an individual care plan will be drawn up and agreed with the school and parent/carers.

Pastoral Care

All school staff are responsible for the pastoral care of our pupils and we take this role very seriously. If you or your child have any problems or concerns, we strongly encourage you to speak to us and we will help as much as we can.

Parents



At Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School, we welcome and rely upon the support, interest and involvement of parents and carers.

Parent meetings to provide progress updates on our pupils are held termly (three per year) and we are confident that the opportunity to 'meet' with class teachers and the feedback given to parents is beneficial.

An annual school report is also sent out to all children in the summer term.

Daily opportunities to briefly pass on information to the class teacher/headteacher are usually available at the start and end of the school day. If you have an issue which requires further discussion, please contact the school office to make an appointment with your child's class teacher/headteacher. We are always happy to discuss any concerns that may affect your child and/or their learning.

Throughout the year, there are various occasions such as performances, sports day, school fairs, social events etc. when families and members of the wider local community are invited into school as helpers, spectators and participants.

Parents/carers can help their child at home by reading with them daily and practising their weekly spellings.



Admissions



CUMBRIA EDUCATION SERVICE GENERAL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2022/2023 Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

Where there are more applications than places available at a community or voluntary controlled school for entry to all year groups **except Year 12**, applications will be prioritised using the criteria below. They will be applied in conjunction with explanatory notes 1 – 7 which form part of the policy.

Children looked after and who were previously looked after, i.e. in public care, giving priority, if necessary, to the youngest child(ren) - see note 1.

Children who were previously looked after outside of England – see note 1.

Children living in the catchment area who have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) at the time of admission - see notes 2, 3 and 4.

Children living outside the catchment area who, at the time of their admission, have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) who were allocated a place at that school by the Local Authority either (a) in the absence of a place being available in the catchment area school due to oversubscription and the school was identified by the Local Authority as the next nearest with a place available or (b) the school is named in the sibling's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) - see notes 2, 3 and 5.

Other children living in the catchment area giving priority to those living closest to the school, measured by a straight-line measurement between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the Local Authority - see notes 6 and 7.

Children living outside the catchment area who have brothers or sisters in the school (or associated infant or junior school) at the time of their admission - see notes 2, 3 and 4.

Children living outside the catchment area, giving priority to those who live closest to the school, measured by a straight-line measurement between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the Local Authority - see notes 6 and 7.

Applications will be prioritised on the above basis. An exception will be made under the Local Authority's policy for the education of children with special

educational needs where a child holds an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), that names the school.

Explanatory Notes

[These notes are part of the policy]

Note 1

A child looked after is a child in public care, who is looked after by a local authority within the meaning of Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. Children previously looked after are children who were looked after, but have ceased to be so because they were adopted (under the terms of the Adoption and Children Act 2002) or became subject to a Child Arrangements Order or Special Guardianship Order (Children Act 1989).

The provision to give the highest priority to looked after and previously looked after children applies to all children who have been adopted from local authority care.

Advice issued by the Department for Education (DfE) in August 2018 states that a child previously looked after outside of England is one that was looked after, outside England, by a public authority, a religious organisation or another provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

For a previously looked after child to be considered under criteria 1 or 2, the parent or carer must provide appropriate written evidence to support the application.

Note 2

In criteria 3, 4 and 6, priority will be given to those children with the youngest siblings. Brothers and sisters are those living at the same address and includes step and foster children. Priority will only be given where it is known at the time of allocating places that a sibling will be attending the school (excluding a nursery class – see note 4) at the time of admission.

Note 3

Where reference is made to 'associated' infant and junior schools this is to describe those situations where infant and junior schools share the same catchment area.

Note 4

Brothers and sisters in the school at the time of admission does not include a brother or sister who will be attending a nursery class that is attached to the

school.

Note 5

If a parent or carer believes that they qualify for consideration under criterion 4, they should indicate this on their preference form in the place provided for this purpose.

Note 6

Distance measurements will be undertaken using the Local Authority's computerised Geographical Information System [GIS]. This measures a straight-line measurement between the centre of the pupil's home address and a common point on the school site as determined by the Local Authority.

Note 7

Random allocation will be used as a tie-break in categories 5 and 7 to decide who has the highest priority for admission if the distance between the children's home address and the school is the same. This process will be independently verified.

Additional Information



Complaints

If you have any concerns about your child's education, it is important that you come and speak to us. In the first instance, any concerns can be discussed with your child's class teacher.

If you still have concerns, a meeting can be arranged with the Headteacher.

As a school, we will do our very best to resolve any issues that you may have and ensure that your child is happy at Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School.

A copy of the school complaints procedure is available on the school website.

Contact us

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William Street

Great Clifton

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01900 601233

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