

# Mersey Vale Primary



**“An Outstanding School”  
Ofsted 2010 & 2007**

## **School Prospectus**

### **Information for Families**

### **2023 - 2024**



<p>A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this booklet/leaflet. Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000. Email: <a href="mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk">eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk</a></p>
<p>যদি এই পুস্তিকা/প্রচার পত্রটি সম্পর্কে আপনার কোন সাহায্য দরকার হয় তবে বিনা খরচে আপনার জন্য দোভাষীর ব্যবস্থা করা হতে পারে। মেহেরবানী করে স্টকপোর্ট ইন্টারপ্রিটিং ইউনিটে ফোন করুন টেলিফোন নম্বর, 0161 477 9000.</p>
<p>اگر آپ کو اس کتابچے/پمفلٹ کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مفت ترجمانی کی سروس دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی انٹرپرائٹنگ یونٹ کو 0161 477 9000 پر فون کریں۔</p>
<p>如你需要他人為你解釋這小冊子/單張的內容，我們可提供免費的傳譯服務，請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。</p>
<p>تتوفر خدمة ترجمة شفوية مجانية إذا تطلبت مساعدة في فهم هذا الكتيب /النشرة. نرجو الاتصال إنترپرائٹنگ یونٹ علی رقم الهاتف: 0161 477 9000</p>
<p>خدمات ترجمہ رایگان این نشریہ/کتابچہ در صورت نیاز موجود میباشد. لطفا با شماره تلفن 0161477 9000 با واحد ترجمہ (اینترپرائٹنگ یونیت) ما تماس بگیرید.</p>

# Welcome



**Mersey Vale**  
Primary School

Dear Parents & Carers

I am very pleased to welcome you and your child to Mersey Vale Primary School. Everyone here is committed to offering your child a successful and happy time at our school within a caring and supportive environment. We look forward to working closely with parents and carers and building a positive partnership in order to ensure that children reach their full potential.

We will ensure that there will be many opportunities for you to share in the educational progress of your child and the staff are always pleased to make arrangements to discuss any aspect of your child's development.

Working in partnership with you, we aim to continue to make Mersey Vale Primary School a centre of excellence for our community and children.

You will always be made very welcome.

Yours faithfully

Ms. Catherine Whitehead  
Headteacher

**If your first language is not English and you need help understanding this booklet, please contact:**

Stockport Ethnic Diversity Service

Telephone: 0161 477 9000

Email: [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

## Mersey Vale Primary School

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Stockport  
Cheshire  
SK4 2BZ

### Phone & Fax

0161 442 7535

### Website

[www.merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk](http://www.merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk)

### E-mail

headteacher@  
merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk

### Headteacher

Ms. Catherine Whitehead

### Deputy Headteacher

Ms Claire Varetto

### Assistant Headteacher

Ms Rachael Mather

### School Business Manager

Mrs Nusreen Ahmed

### Chair of Governors

Dr William Goundry

# Mersey Vale Primary School

## Ofsted

Mersey Vale was inspected by Ofsted in March 2007 and January 2010. The inspectors wrote:

*'This is an outstanding school. 'Working together for a brighter future' is the school motto and this is certainly the case for pupils at Mersey Vale Primary. As one pupil reflected, 'Everyone matters here, you are treated with respect and no-one is left out'. This perceptive comment sums up the overall ethos of this very caring school.'*

*"This school has gone from strength to strength since the previous inspection and continues to offer its pupils an outstanding quality of education."*

## Our School

Mersey Vale Primary is a smaller than average primary school with pupils from a variety of social backgrounds. Around two thirds of the pupils belong to minority ethnic groups and between them speak 20 languages other than English. We have approximately 240 pupils on roll which includes up to 40 part time and some full time nursery children. The school has achieved the Healthy Schools Award, the Inclusion Quality Mark, the Activemark Award, the Leading Parent Partnership Award and the Eco-Schools top level Green Flag Award.

The staffing team comprises of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, ten Class Teachers, a Learning Mentor, a Forest School Leader and many Teaching Assistants. We also have a School Business Manager, two School Administrators, a Midday Supervisor assisted by eight Midday Assistants and a lunchtime Sports Coach, a Caretaker, Cleaner and two Cooks. The After School Club has two assistants each day.

## Building

The school was opened in 1975 to serve the surrounding housing estates. In 1981 a hall and extra classrooms were added to the school. In 1995 further building extensions provided two classrooms and a nursery. The school now has seven classrooms plus the nursery class, a school hall, a small ICT suite plus a fully wireless network, a library and extensive grounds for a variety of outdoor activities including our Forest School. Improvement to our facilities and accommodation is a constant process and we are currently planning to further improve our 'pencil playground'.

## Curriculum

We endeavour to ensure that the school curriculum we provide for our pupils has breadth, balance, continuity and progression to raise the standards of achievement and success of all our pupils. Our staff work in close partnership as a team.



**Mersey Vale**  
Primary School

8.50am – 3.20 pm

### Wrap Around Care:

We offer both Breakfast Club and After School Club, both of which are to be booked and paid for in advance.

Please contact the school office team for more information.

### Breakfast Club

8.00 am - 8.40am  
Monday-Friday

### After School Club

3.30pm—5.30 pm  
Monday-Thursday  
3.30pm-5.00 pm Friday

Nursery admission is determined through the local authority.

Information can be found on the school's website and Stockport Council's website. A place in the school Nursery class does not guarantee a place in the school Reception class. Also, a place in our Year 6 class does not guarantee a place at any high school.



## School Ethos, Vision & Aims

The ethos at Mersey Vale Primary School is based on inclusion and an atmosphere of mutual support and understanding. Our school community strives to create a warm, caring environment for all children and all those who learn, visit or work here. The partnership with parents / carers, good communication, acknowledging positive behaviours and encouraging children to negotiate and co-operate with each other, all contribute to fostering positive and trusting relationships within the whole school community.

Children learn to value, understand, respect and celebrate diversity and to work and play together harmoniously. Children are actively encouraged to be involved in the learning process and take responsibility for their own learning.

Our aims are;

- To create a happy, safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where the curriculum is creative, inspirational and relevant to the children's present needs and future aspirations.
- To develop a love of learning, inspired by high quality teaching, by building upon and developing all of our individual talents.
- To ensure that our children enjoy a stimulating and diverse education where learning experiences are rich and enjoyable.
- To encourage and support children to feel valued and achieve their very best by reaching for the highest levels of personal achievement and development.
- To develop attitudes, knowledge, skills and practical abilities to enable children to take contribute to the community and wider society and become valued members of a rapidly changing world.
- To challenge children to develop lively and enquiring minds which question, think independently and argue rationally.
- To develop skills of application, perseverance, cooperation, self-confidence and self-motivation



We promote a caring, supportive environment where all individuals are able to feel secure and happy and able to grow into caring individuals who value themselves and others.

Our behaviour policy follows a system of rewards and consequences for following our 'Golden Rules'.

### Mersey Vale Golden Rules

- work hard and always try your best
- be caring, kind and helpful
- be honest and take responsibility for your actions
- look after property
- respect ourselves and others

Throughout 2021-2023, the whole school community worked together to develop our school values.

At Mersey Vale, we nurture and empower everyone to be kind, responsible, inclusive, resilient, collaborative, life-long learners.



## Admissions

Children are admitted to school in accordance with the prescribed local authority (LA) procedure. The admission limit designated by the LA is 30 children per class/year.

## Procedure for admission

Places are allocated in accordance with the criteria published by the Stockport [Children and Young People's Directorate \(CYPD\)](#) on the [Stockport Council's website](#).

Parents / carers have the right to appeal against the refusal of a place for their child, the procedure is set out in the booklet.

## Visiting the School

Prospective parents / carers are warmly welcomed to visit the school and nursery. Choosing a school is an important decision to make. The Headteacher or another member of our Senior Leadership Team will be happy to show you round. Please telephone to make an appointment as this will allow us to plan time and for you to make the most of your visit.

Please do not hesitate to contact school if at anytime you have concerns about your child. We shall also contact you if we are concerned about your child or want to share some good news with you.

Opportunities to meet with your child's class teacher are provided throughout the year. In the Autumn and Spring term, short, individual meetings are held to discuss progress and share individual targets. In the Summer term we have an open afternoon at which a full written report, together with other information and a questionnaire, is issued. There are many different events throughout the year which you are warmly invited to come along to. You will be invited through our half-termly newsletters and via our website. We also provide a calendar card to every child detailing all planned events at the date of production. Further copies are available from the school office upon request.



## Security and Safety

Concerns about children's safety have heightened our awareness regarding issues of school security. Every parent / carer needs to feel reassured that their child is safe in school. We all need to share in this responsibility. The use of mobile telephones or other camera enabled devices is prohibited in school unless at special events.

Doors and entrances are locked at 9am after registration. Visitors or late arrivals are asked to use the main entrance of the building and report to the school office to register.

The best help parents / carers can give is to ensure that locked doors stay locked. Parents / carers and visitors are asked to leave school through the main entrance after the doors have been locked.

The children's safety depends on everyone keeping the building secure and keeping an eye on the school during the evenings and at weekends.

In the event that school staff consider a parent/ carer is unable to safely look after their child (ren) for whatever reason, we have a duty of care to contact other authorised adults or to inform Stockport social care or the police.

## The Early Years Foundation Stage

In Nursery and Reception, children have many different learning experiences in the areas of:

- Communication and language
- Personal, social & emotional development
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive art & design

The nursery gives children an exciting and stimulating start to their education and an excellent grounding before continuing their education in our Reception class.



## Teaching Organisation

Mersey Vale is a one-form-entry primary school with one class for each year group. The content and assessment of the curriculum is delivered through whole school approaches to ensure continuity and progression as children move from one year group to the next.

Teachers follow careful planning and structured teaching programmes and each class studies a variety of themes throughout the school year in all subjects. We aim to enrich children's learning experiences through educational visits and warmly welcome specialist teachers and visitors to the school.

Classrooms and activities are planned, resourced and organised to provide a stimulating and supportive working environment. This allows for a variety of different teaching and learning styles while encouraging independence.

## The Nursery

Our 40 part-time place / 20 full-time place nursery provides a challenging, happy and safe environment in which children learn through structured play and first hand experiences.

The children learn to co-operate as part of a group which is an important step in their social education. Each child is treated as an individual and encouraged to make independent choices and decisions whilst learning about the world around them and the feelings of others.

The curriculum is varied and imaginatively designed by the Nursery teacher and other Nursery staff. Through our approach, children are involved in the early stages of many curriculum areas.



## The National Curriculum

In Key Stage 1 and 2, children follow a variety of subject areas from the National Curriculum:

### CORE SUBJECTS

English  
Mathematics  
Science

### FOUNDATION SUBJECTS

Art and design  
Computing  
Design and technology  
Geography  
History  
Languages (KS2)  
Music  
Physical Education

We also teach Personal, Social & Health Education, Citizenship and Religious Education.

Information about the curriculum can be found on the school [website](#)

### English

In English, children work on speaking and listening, reading, writing, spelling and handwriting. We ensure we provide a literate environment in school and give children many opportunities to develop their literacy skills. Reading is a priority and we encourage all children to share books at home to support a love of books for all.

### Mathematics

We aim to create confident mathematicians, teaching mathematical skills and concepts in a challenging, interactive and exciting way using a range of different supporting materials and games. We use a mastery approach to mathematics, developing children's fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills.

### Science

Science is taught through themes and in specific science topics. We aim to develop lively, enquiring minds and give children an appetite to discover for themselves. Children are encouraged to examine, make enquiries, predict, reason, hypothesise and evaluate.

### Computing

Children use many different forms of technology in school, such as laptops, Chromebooks, iPads and learn how to use these safely. The children are encouraged to develop their skills and use their IT abilities throughout all areas of the curriculum. This allows the children to enjoy fully creative and interactive lessons. whiteboard. Staff keep up to date with current innovations through ongoing training.



**Mersey Vale**  
Primary School

### Art and design

Using many different materials, children develop their skills in varied aspects of art. Through creation and appreciation of art, the children learn use of colour, tone, shape, design, texture and pattern. They are introduced to artists and art forms from different periods and cultures, and encouraged to develop their own ideas.

### Design and technology

Using creativity and imagination children design and make products that solve real and relevant problems. They also learn to evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others.

### Geography

In Geography we aim to deepen children's understanding of their locality and the wider world. To help children acquire the skills needed for using maps We also encourage a responsible attitude to the world and its resources and to appreciate and value the local environment.

### History

In history we aim to give children a coherent knowledge and understanding of the past and to inspire their curiosity about the past. We hope to equip children to ask questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments and develop perspective and judgement. Visits are arranged to extend the children's understanding.



## Music

Following the Charanga Music scheme children learn to sing and compose music with their voices. Use of instruments allows them to progress to the next level of musical development. Through singing assemblies and Key Stage productions children can perform in various genres and styles. At Mersey Vale, all children will have the opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument.

## Physical Education

We teach gymnastics, dance, games, swimming and outdoor and adventurous activities. Children in Y4 and Y5 take part in swimming sessions. Pupils' swimwear should be close fitting in order not to hinder movement or produce resistance. Where loose hair is long enough to impair vision, a swim cap is recommended or, as a minimum, long hair should be tied back. Earrings must be removed for swimming.

Please ensure your child has a PE kit available in school at all times. We offer a full P.E. Kit with school logo, consisting of a sky blue t-shirt and navy shorts along with a drawstring bag for a very reasonable cost. Please place orders through [Parentpay](#). For outdoor games, children should also have a blue sweatshirt, navy tracksuit/jogging bottoms and trainers.

Children who are fit for school are expected to take part in physical activities as part of the National Curriculum. Withdrawal from any activity for an extended period must be supported by a doctor's note. Please contact us by letter or in person to let us know any reason why your child cannot participate in any physical education sessions. We will otherwise include your child.

## School Sporting Aims and Provision of Sport

We aim to develop positive attitudes towards sport to develop skills and promote health and well-being. During each week, children take part in a variety of different physical activities, including a daily dash and a weekly sports coaching session for Y1 – Y6 children. From time to time we also have additional qualified sports professionals working in school from tennis, cricket, football, basketball and other sports. Coaches also deliver continuing professional development training to staff.

## Religious Education (RE)

At Mersey Vale we encourage the children to acquire reasoned and positive attitudes and beliefs which include a respect for and understanding of other peoples' spiritual, religious, moral and cultural ways of life. We help them to appreciate the world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations. Through our RE curriculum we promote knowledge and understanding of the underlying principles of Christianity and other major faiths. Parents/carers can request withdrawal of their children from RE and certain PSHE lessons. This should be done in writing following discussion with the Headteacher.

## Equal Opportunities

Mersey Vale Primary embraces a policy whereby all children are entitled to equality in their access to educational opportunities, resources and experiences.

We celebrate the richness and diversity of our school community and actively encourage children to respect and understand the cultures and beliefs of others. We believe that developing children's self esteem is crucial in enabling children to make the most of the opportunities offered in school.

Curriculum access for pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) is enhanced through home language support by our bilingual staff, through the provision of quality visual resources and alongside high quality teaching.

## Equality Act 2010

9 protected characteristics:

- age
- gender reassignment
- being married or in a civil partnership
- being pregnant or having a child
- disability
- race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin
- religion, belief or lack of religion/belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

## Times of the School Day

The official start of the school day is 8.50am, however our school gates open at 8.40am and staff are in the playground from this time to welcome children to school.

8.50am - School starts

10.30am - 10.45am Morning Playtime

12pm - 1pm Lunchtime for Reception and KS1

12.15pm – 1pm Lunchtime for KS2

2:15pm – 2:30pm Afternoon Playtime

3.20 pm - Hometime

## The beginning and end of the school day

### Key Stage 1 / Lower Key Stage 2

Our policy is that children up to year 5 should be brought and collected by an adult.

### Key Stage 2

Children in year 6 (and children in year 5 from the start of Summer Term each year) may come to school and go home by themselves, if their parents / carers provide us with a suitable consent.

Please let class teachers know about arrangements for bringing and collecting children so that each child's safety can be ensured.

If there are any changes in arrangements for collecting children, again please let us know on the day. You are welcome to telephone us should a change be necessary and please let us know if you are going to be unavoidably late.



## Transition

### Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1

Children are taken into the Reception class in accordance with the CYPD's admission policy. Children work through the EYFS curriculum and Key Stage 1 of the National Curriculum. There are two EYFS Stage year groups (Nursery and Reception) and two Key Stage 1 year groups (Year 1 and Year 2).

### Key Stage 2

Children move to Key Stage 2 in the September following their 7th birthday. There are four year groups (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6). During this time children will be working through Key Stage 2 of the National Curriculum.

### Secondary School Transition

Our associated community secondary school is Priestnall. Various activities take place to support children's transition to secondary school including a transition day in June each year. Parents / carers of year 6 children are also invited to a transition meeting and an open evening at Priestnall School.

**Attending Mersey Vale does not however guarantee a place at Priestnall or any other high school.**

## Governors

Our Governors support the school in providing the best possible education for our children. They meet regularly to support the leadership team in the running of the school. They challenge and question, helping to ensure the school continues to improve and obtains best value from our funding.

## Parents and Carers as Partners

Parents / carers are welcome to talk informally with staff between 8.40am and 8.50am and when collecting their children at home time. If you need to have a longer discussion, the Class Teacher will arrange a time with you. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher are always pleased to see parents / carers. Please arrange a time through the office or via Class Dojo.

Formal and informal conferences take place three times a year, where you can come along and meet with your child's teacher.



Why not spend some time in school? There are many ways in which you could become more involved, for instance:

- we have a Friends of Mersey Vale group
- come to our parent partnership group meetings
- join us for special assemblies
- join us for school functions and events
- come to our curriculum meetings
- come as an observer to Governors' meetings
- Volunteer to help in classes

## The Partnership Between Home and School

Parents and carers are actively encouraged to be involved in the life of the school and are very much partners in the education of our children.

From the very first day children start school, they will be eager to share their learning experiences with you. Young children are happier and achieve much more if a positive partnership exists between home and school.



## Homework

At Mersey Vale, parents / carers are valued as partners in the education of their children and there are many ways we can work together to promote your child's personal, social and academic development.

The skills and activities you may be asked to practise or develop at home can range from helping your child to tie their shoe laces, reading out street signs, playing 'I-spy', as well as developing independent research skills.

From the earliest years we encourage children to take their reading book home to share with you. Each child has a Reading Record Booklet to record books read and comments by you and school staff. Children are given regular homework throughout their time at Mersey Vale.

Your support and encouragement are very important to help your child's learning and to ensure children understand the importance of school and that learning and sharing together is a pleasure for the whole family.





## Attendance

A child's education will be affected if they miss school or arrive late. School doors open from 8.40am. And the school day starts at 8.50am. Please ensure your child is in school and ready to start their learning by 8.50am. This avoids disruption to the beginning of the school day. Schools have a legal requirement to submit absence figures to the Children and Young People's Directorate. Some absences cannot be authorised by the Headteacher. Your child's end of year report will summarise attendance and absences.

## Absences

If your child is absent from school please let us know as soon as possible stating the reason. For each day of absence (other than holidays—see below) please telephone us, complete an absence request via School Spider, or see the class teacher. This ensures that your child's absence is recorded appropriately. Registers are legal documents and are checked regularly by an Education Welfare Officer who will then follow up any queries. Please ensure your child does not take unnecessary absences. For children in Years 5—6 we will send a daily text if your child is not in school and we do not know the reason.

## Late Arrivals

We encourage parents to arrive at school on time but where it is unavoidable that your child arrives after 8.50am, they must be taken to the school office in order to receive their attendance mark. This is very important in the event of an emergency, as we need to know that your child is in school.

## Appointments

Whenever possible, please make medical and other appointments during school holidays or after school. Occasionally children may have to attend appointments during the school day. If this is the case please inform the class teacher. Children must be collected by an adult and will be asked to show an appointment card to the office staff. Children are not allowed to leave school on their own.

## Holidays

A holiday list is given out to all children as soon as dates are known. Please do not take family holidays during term time. Our policy follows the guidance to schools given by Stockport Council and the Department for Education. *No holidays during school term time can be authorised and Education Penalty Notices with fines of £60 per parent / carer, per child are likely to be issued for holidays (or some other unauthorised absences) taken in term time.* **Year 1, 2, 4 and 6 have national assessments which take place in the Summer term and the Year 6 national assessments cannot be taken at an alternative date.**

## Nursery Times

8.45 am – 11.45 am  
12.15 pm – 3.15 pm

When your child comes into our Nursery Class, there are a variety of activities which you can enjoy with them while they settle.

The Nursery morning session finishes at 11.45am for children allocated morning places. The afternoon session finishes at 3.15pm for children allocated afternoon places.

We also offer flexible provision and can cater for parents wishing to place children with us from 15 to 30 hours per week + ½ hour lunchtime supervision each day.

When your child is first settling in the nursery, staff may suggest you collect your child a little earlier.

Only people over the age of 16 will be allowed to bring or collect children in Early Years Foundation Stage (and also Key Stage 1 children).

## Health and Welfare

The whole school premises is a non-smoking area. These rules are in the interests of the health, safety and well-being of all our children, staff and visitors. Please do not smoke within school grounds or immediately outside the school entrances. No dogs or other animals should be brought onto school premises. We would also ask that visitors to school avoid leaving dogs (even if tied to railings etc) directly outside the main entrances.

Please respect the safety of others and the access of our neighbours when parking near school. If possible, please promote healthy lifestyles by walking to school. Note that at all times and for the safety of children, the staff car park is to be used only by staff.

During their time at school the children will be seen periodically by the school nurse and dentist. Sight and hearing screening may also take place. Parents / carers will be informed of any planned visits. Please let us know if you are concerned about any aspect of your child's health or development as we can often help in contacting appropriate agencies which can give advice and support.

## Managing Medical Needs Policy Statement

Mersey Vale Primary School is an inclusive community that aims to support and welcome pupils with medical conditions. We aim to provide all pupils with medical conditions the same opportunities as others at school.

We ensure that all staff:

- understand their duty of care to children and young people in the event of an emergency
- feel confident in knowing what to do in an emergency
- understand that certain medical conditions are serious and can be potentially life threatening, particularly if ill managed or misunderstood
- understand the importance of medication being taken as prescribed
- understand the common medical conditions that affect children at our school. Our school allows adequate time for staff to receive training on the impact medical conditions can have on pupils
- receive additional training about any children they may be working with who have complex health needs supported by an Individual Health Plan (IHP)

This policy is followed and understood by our school community, the Local Authority and NHS Stockport.



## Asthma

We recognise that asthma is a condition affecting many children. Inhalers (except those for nursery children) are kept in the school office and their use monitored carefully by school staff.

## Medicines in School

If your child has medication for a medical condition please ensure that the headteacher and child's class teacher are aware of this.

For safety reasons we are unable to give medicines or tablets to children. You will need to make arrangements to come into school and administer the medicine to your child yourself. In exceptional circumstances where a doctor has prescribed a 'four dose a day' medication, named staff may agree to administer the medicine, given written consent from a parent / carer.

## School Meals and Lunchtimes

Lunchtimes are a pleasant and sociable experience. Children have a choice of meals and collect them on a single tray. Traditional, Halal and vegetarian food is available, as are sandwiches and jacket potatoes. If your child has any special dietary requirements or an allergy, please let us know in writing or on your school admission forms.

## Snacks at Breaktime

Children can purchase a snack for £0.30 per day to have during the morning break. Parents / carers can also provide a **healthy** snack for their child if preferred.

## Dinner Money / Snack Money

[Parentpay](#) is used for payments to school for all items requiring payment in school. Login details can be provided by the office if required and you can access the site [here](#). If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please call into the school office for information and guidance relating to the online application process. Currently all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a daily free school meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme. However, it is very important for school funding purposes to also apply for free school meals if you are eligible. Please contact the school office if you are unsure about the eligibility criteria.

## Packed Lunches

Around half of our key stage two pupils bring a packed lunch. Lunches, including drinks, should be nutritious and suitably packed in unbreakable containers. Parents / carers who wish their children to change from dinners to packed lunches and vice versa should inform the school office.

## Lunchtime Supervision

Children are supervised by Midday Assistants during the lunch break and these staff, along with our sports coaches, provide activities for children to take part in.



All school staff follow the school's behaviour policy. It is expected that all children are respectful and courteous to all adults in school.



## Teaching and Learning

### Our Aim

At Mersey Vale Primary School we believe that all children are entitled to a rich, broad and balanced curriculum, which will enable all children to reach their full potential and develop personally, socially, academically, spiritually and morally.

This broad approach includes the National Curriculum, Children and Young People's Directorate initiatives and Mersey Vale's commitment to experiential activity based and child centred learning to meet individual needs.

This is achieved through carefully planned and implemented programmes of learning for all curriculum areas, which reflect our commitment to equal opportunities for all.

### Forest School Activities @mvpsforest

Our children are fortunate to gain benefit from outdoor learning in the form of Forest School groups. Children learn new skills and perform exciting team building exercises which many rarely have a chance to do in their out of school lives. We believe that this provides an excellent opportunity and our Forest School co-ordinator, Miss Wilding is fully trained to perform all activities.



## Dress

With the exception of special circumstances, we expect all children to wear school uniform. The uniform is a pale blue polo shirt and navy blue sweatshirt both with the school badge, grey, black or navy trousers or skirt or a pale blue and white gingham dress.

We also have a different colour sweatshirt for our Nursery children, our Eco-committee and School Council members. All uniform, including our PE kit, can be bought from one of our uniform suppliers. [Parentpay](#) allows some uniform to be ordered and paid for online.

Please ensure your child wears black shoes which are appropriate for school. **Please label items e.g. sweatshirts, coats, bags for easy identification.**



## Jewellery/Money/Valuables

To avoid the risk of loss or damage we ask that children do not bring valuables such as jewellery, electronic gadgets (including mobile phones) or toys to school. For safety reasons we ask that the wearing of jewellery is kept to watches and stud earrings and that parents /carers complete a consent form for this. Rings and necklaces are not appropriate in school as they can cause injury and unnecessary distress if lost or broken. *Unfortunately we are unable to take responsibility for loss or damage to personal property in school.*

## School Fund

Donations to school fund are greatly appreciated. School Fund is used to support a variety of additional experiences and resources for children, for example additional library books, parties at special times of the year, educational visits, musical instruments and extra art and craft materials. Accounts are independently inspected annually. Fund raising events are held throughout the year and often organised in partnership with our Friends of Mersey Vale group. These are well supported and serve as social occasions for the school community too.

Thank you to all involved in this vital work.



## Educational Visits & Outings

The school organises visits to museums, art galleries, country parks and the local area to support learning in many areas of the curriculum.

## Fund Raising

We have a variety of different fund raising events at Mersey Vale.

Parents, carers and friends of Mersey Vale are always welcome to volunteer to help out at these events.

## Additional Information

### Children with Additional Needs

At Mersey Vale we believe that all children have the right to learn together in an integrated and harmonious environment.

We aim to provide a rich educational environment which supports children, through a variety of established systems and approaches in order to ensure that they reach their full potential. We aim to ensure that those with social, educational and physical needs have access to a broad and balanced education based on the principles of the National Curriculum. We also recognise the need to support those children who are more able in any particular academic or creative area.

### Special Educational Needs & Disability

We aim to ensure that all children are able to participate in the life and work of the school to the best of their abilities, whatever their needs.

A range of internal and external support staff provide additional help for children. We work closely with parents and carers whose children have additional needs. We aim to identify any child who may need special provision as early as possible. Our Inclusion Leader is available to meet parents / carers and discuss any concerns that you may have.

The school takes its responsibility for meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and complies with Stockport Local Education Authority's policy. This policy can be obtained from CYPD offices.

### Assemblies and Collective Worship

At some time during each school day, children come together in class, as a key stage or as a whole school for assemblies or acts of collective worship which allow a short time for reflection. Parents / carers have the right to withdraw their child from religious worship.

Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher.



### Assessment and Reporting to Parents / carers

Assessment of children's progress is an on-going process and teachers use it as a tool for planning appropriate work for each child.

Teachers keep detailed records of children's progress and a written school report is given to parents / carers at the end of each academic year. We also arrange parents' evenings where parents / carers and teachers meet to discuss children's achievements and progress. Interpreters are available, on request.

At the end of KSI (Yr 2) and KS2 (Yr 6) children undertake nationally set tests.

Results of these assessments are given to parents / carers at the end of Yr 2 and Yr 6. It is important that parents / carers remember that each child not only develops at a different rate, but also has a different starting point when they enter school.

## **Charging Policy of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body recognises the valuable contribution that a wide range of additional activities can make towards enriching children's education. School fund is used to a great extent to subsidise such activities. Parents / carers will be invited to make voluntary contributions to meet the cost of activities which take place in school hours. Although no child will be excluded from any visit for financial reasons, the Governing Body reserves the right to cancel any activity if sufficient voluntary contributions have not been received. Families who have difficulty meeting the full cost can apply for financial assistance to the headteacher for support. Parents and carers are always informed well in advance of such activities and payment can be made in instalments.

In case of loss or damage to school equipment and resources, parents and carers may be asked to make a contribution towards the cost of replacing the item.

The Governing Body reserves the right to charge the full cost for activities which take place outside school hours.

## **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**

The Governors and staff believe strongly that our role is to ensure that children's questions are answered honestly, at the appropriate level of understanding and with due consideration of any religious or cultural factors. Our Personal, Social, Health Education Policy is carefully designed to promote awareness of health issues and to support children with the emotional and physical changes that occur as they grow up and is a vital aspect of our safeguarding duty.

A representative parent / carer working party has developed our RSE policy with support from school and LA staff and this is currently under review. All classes Y1—Y6 follow Stockport's 'Spiral Curriculum for Relationships & Sex Education'. Most of the content forms part of the statutory education for the various year groups. Please discuss any concerns with the Headteacher, class teacher or school office.

Parents / carers have the right to withdraw their child from limited, specific elements of Relationships & Sex Education sessions. Requests should be made in writing using the appropriate form available from the school office. This should be sent to the Headteacher *only after* considering the materials and activities being used.



## **Communications**

At Mersey Vale we are proud of the various ways in which we exchange information between home and school.

Our primary communication tools are Class Dojo and School Spider.

Each child and parent/carer is given individual login details when they start at Mersey Vale. Through Class Dojo, parents/carers can message class teachers and share in their child's learning. Upcoming events and celebrations are also shared via the whole school story.

Our website is updated regularly and contains all the useful dates for the school year, as well as our policies, procedures, and our latest newsletters. Each year group also has their own section of the site.

<http://www.merseyvale.stockport.sch.uk>

Several classes and groups in the school also have their own Twitter 'handles'.

School Twitter: @MerseyVale

@MsC\_Whitehead (Headteacher)

@mvpsforest (Forest School)

@mvpsdigital (Digital leaders)

@mvpsco (Eco-committee)



## **Trainees**

It is the policy of the school to play an active role in the training of nursery nurses, teaching assistants and teachers. We therefore liaise closely with colleges and universities to give students the opportunity of undertaking some of their professional training with us. We also provide an avenue for local high school students to undertake periods of work experience in school.

## **Safeguarding Children**

Schools have an important part to play in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children.

The law requires schools to respond to suspected abuse of children. Stockport LA has clear guidelines for schools to follow. Parents / carers should be aware that, if staff in school have any suspicion that abuse has taken place, the school is required to report the matter to the appropriate authority and that a social worker may contact parents / carers. The reporting of such incidents is a statutory requirement and is not a matter for the discretion of individual headteachers or members of staff.

## **Access to Documents and Information**

The following may be seen at the school by request to the headteacher:

National Curriculum Documents, current policies and schemes of work, the LA Religious Education Syllabus and School Improvement Plan.

**Thank you**



**Mersey Vale**  
Primary School

## **Complaints**

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act (Section 23) complaints about the Curriculum & Collective Worship must go through designated procedures as laid down by the Act.

Most concerns expressed by parents / carers are successfully resolved informally by discussion with the class teacher. If any matter was not able to be settled through discussion with the class teacher, then the matter can be referred to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. If you feel the matter remains unresolved at this point you will be guided through or formal complaints procedure.

**We hope you have found the information contained in this prospectus to be useful. If you would like to discuss anything in more detail, please call in to see us.**

**We look forward to working closely with you whilst your child is with us in school.**