



Victoria Road School Information Book

*'A caring community where
learners rise to the challenge'*



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We use Class Dojo to communicate openly with all our parents. You can follow and support your child’s portfolio from Reception all the way through school and message teachers at the touch of a button. Class Dojo allows you to feel connected with your child’s education whilst keeping you up to date with all schooling matters.

“Communication has been excellent with Class Dojo” Parent, 2021.

Contact details

Victoria Road Primary School,
School Lane, Victoria Road,
Castletown, Isle of Man,
IM9 1BA

Tel: 01624 822208,

E-mail: victoriardenquiries@sch.im

Website: <https://victoriaroad.sch.im>



Introduction

Welcome to Victoria Road Primary school. The school originally opened in 1895 as an elementary school and became a primary school after the opening of Castle Rushen High School in 1948. The building has grown over the years having extensions at various times.

Our aim is to ensure that your child is happy and successful here. Victoria Road School is a happy, nurturing and stimulating learning environment which places a great emphasis on the development of the whole child.

If you have any queries regarding the information in this booklet please contact the school. We look forward to working together to create a lasting and successful partnership.

Mrs N Johnstone
Headteacher



Mrs N Johnstone
Headteacher BA Hons, NPQH

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Victoria Road School

Staff

Headteacher

Mrs N Johnstone

Deputy Headteacher

Miss C Hastings

Teaching staff

Miss A Clark

Mrs H Daykin

Mrs Z Kelly

Miss A Kinrade

Mrs L Lockyer

Mr A Moultrie

Miss S Mylchreest

Mr S Palmer

Mrs S Collins

Ms F Shimmin

Mrs J Strand

Senior Education Support Officers (SESOs)

Mrs J Batchelor

Mr C Belcher

Mrs C Quirk

Mrs S Dunbar

Mr L Stewart

Mrs K Faragher

School Administrator

Mrs Gemma Kelly

Child & Family Support Worker (SESO)

Mrs A Ritson

Education Support Officers (ESOs)

Ms C Stevens

Mrs H Ella

Mrs A Caddick

Site Manager

Mrs M Roberts

Cleaning Staff

Mrs L Edwards

Mrs G Taylor

Lunch Ancillaries

Ms H Sheppard

Mrs C Taylor

Mrs H Ella

Miss L Gale

Mrs G Hardacre

Mrs C Stevens

Kitchen Staff

Mrs T Searle

Mrs G Taylor



Governing Body

Mrs A Katz (Chair)

Mrs L Lockyer (Teacher)

Mr A Lewthwaite (Co-Opted)

Mrs J Batchelor (SEN)

Mrs K Hall (Parent)

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Our school vision:

'A caring community where learners rise to the challenge'

Our school community values:

"A caring community where learners rise to the challenge"



OUR CORE VALUES



OUR LEARNING VALUES



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Starting school

The school day

School Opens	8.55 am
Morning Break	10.30am - 10.50am
Lunch Break	12.00 pm - 1.00 pm
Afternoon Break	KS1 2.05pm - 2.20pm KS2 2.25pm - 2.40pm
School Closes	3.30 pm



Early mornings

A member of staff is normally on the yard each morning from 8:50 am. On wet mornings after 8.45am, all children should go to their classroom. Three bells will signify a wet morning.

School Meals

Balanced and nutritious school meals are provided and a copy of the current menu is always available from the school office or on the website. The school meals service provides a choice of a hot and cold meal every day which allows children to decide what they would like. Children who prefer a packed lunch are also catered for.

Please pay for lunches in advance through Parent pay or send the correct dinner money with your child into school in a named envelope.

Alternatively, you can pay half termly in advance, making cheques payable to Isle of Man Government.

All dinner money must be paid in advance.

Break Times:

Positive play is promoted at playtimes and lunchtimes on the yard at the front of the school. Lunchtime supervision involves Lunchtime assistants, with a senior member of staff on site. At Victoria Road, utilising our outdoor space is very important to us. Therefore we always have our wellies in school so we can get out on the field and our nature garden as much as possible.

Drinks

All children are encouraged to have a water bottle in school as water is proven to help their learning, please ensure the bottle is clearly marked with your child's name and class.



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Starting school

Victoria Road School

Absence

Please telephone or email the school as soon as you know your child will not be attending school that day.

If you need to take your child out of school, a written request for holidays must be provided to the head teacher, who may authorise the absence.

Medical

The school nurse examines children at various stages during their time in the primary school. You will be notified well in advance of any examination so that you can attend if you wish.

Staff do not administer any medication. However, in extenuating circumstances senior staff may watch a child self-administer. This is at the discretion of the head teacher. Parents of children with chronic conditions and special medical needs will need to discuss these with the head teacher. If your child is on medication you will be asked to administer this.

Road Safety

Please teach your child to cross Victoria Road with our crossing patrol, Mrs Kelly. Children should walk into school through the gate at the bottom of the yard, or be dropped off in the drop-off zone.

If you bring your child to school by car, please do not park in the drop-off zone or double park on Smetana Close - emergency services need access to the school at all times!



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Starting school

Victoria Road School

Bicycles

Children under the age of 10 years are considered by the Road Safety Officer to be too young to ride on public roads. To this end we only encourage children to bring bicycles after they have received Cycle Training. Bikes and scooters can be left in the school arches for safe keeping during the school day.

Uniform

School uniform consists of a white shirt or polo shirt, with a red sweatshirt or jumper. Jumpers with a school logo can be purchased from Promenade T-Shirts on Douglas Promenade. Pupils should wear grey or black trousers or a grey skirt or pinafore and a red and white gingham dress in the summer term. Pupils may also wear tailored grey shorts during the summer term. Black shoes or black trainers should be worn.

PE kit is a pair of black shorts with a white T-shirt or a T-shirt in house colours. House colour T-shirts are also available to buy from Promenade T-shirts. Football strips are not allowed.

An Honesty Box is located by the Sports Hall entrance in order to donate money from our second hand shop.

House Colours

Hillary - Blue
Noble - Red

Forbes - Green
Wood - Yellow

No jewellery other than stud earrings or a watch are allowed.

Emergency Contact Numbers

It is extremely important that you keep the school informed of any changes in home or emergency contact numbers. Changes of address and other details should also be advised as soon as possible to the school office.

Lost/Mislaid Property

Parents are advised that if children bring valuable property to school, neither the Department of Education, Sport & Culture nor the teachers or other employees of the Department will be responsible for any loss or damage to such property. To help the mislaying of property, please put your child's name in all clothing.





The Curriculum

We take a cross curricular approach to our learning - from Reception to Year 6, and aim to provide a broad and balanced education allowing for the individual needs of each child to be met, within a variety of rich learning experiences.

The emphasis is on developing skills. This enables pupils to then develop and apply those skills to a range of contexts. We follow the school curriculum and the Isle of Man Department of Education, Sport & Culture's 'Essentials for Learning' curriculum, enabling each child to develop the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes for them to be *ready* to learn, *remember* and develop as *reflective, resilient, resourceful* individuals who can form positive *relationships*. These are known as **the six 'R's'**. In our school these are developed through the learning jungle animals.

The curriculum at Foundation Stage (Reception):

Reception is the second stage of The Early Years Foundations Stage (EYFS) with Nursery/Pre-school being the first. At Victoria Road School we believe that your child's early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs. Like all Nurseries, Pre-schools and Reception settings, we follow the EYFS framework.

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child should be learning to support their healthy development. Your

child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the **3 Prime Areas first**. These are:

- Communication and Language;
- Physical Development;
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

These Prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop, when they are ready, the skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

- Literacy (reading and writing);
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the World;
- Expressive Arts and Design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. Victoria Road School Reception Staff will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little like a curriculum in Primary and Secondary Schools, but it is suitable for very young children and it is designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests. Children in Reception learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

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Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6)

In each Key Stage the curriculum comprises of the following learning areas, some of which are taught through cross curricular topics:

The core subjects

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Information & Communication Technology

Children's progress is monitored by teacher assessment throughout their school journey. At the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 Children's levels in Maths, English and Science are reported.

English

The school's teaching of English is based on the Primary Literacy Framework from Year 1 to Year 6.

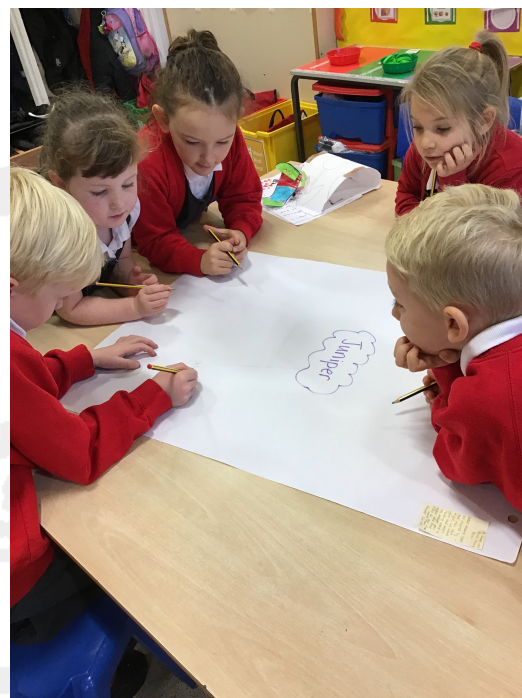
Talking and Listening - developing a pupil's listening skills and their ability to express themselves verbally in different contexts.

Reading - Decoding and comprehension skills are developed whilst fostering a sense of enjoyment and enthusiasm for reading. It is not just the ability to read words correctly but to understand what is being read. Pupils are exposed to a wide range of texts and genres whilst sharing and discussing texts as a class and as a group during guided reading sessions. These sessions allow children to improve and share decoding strategies, discuss text/language features and

critically develop their understanding of a range of texts. They also have an independent reading book which they can take home for practice.

The school has a library with both fiction and non-fiction materials, which is accessible to the pupils to support the curriculum, where children can access books to read for pleasure.

Writing - to enable pupils to enjoy writing and see the value of it, communicating meaning in narrative and non-fiction texts while showing the ability to spell and punctuate correctly in legible handwriting.



'All pupils share and discuss texts as a class, and have guided reading sessions in a group.'

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Mathematics

The school's teaching of mathematics is based on Teaching for Mathematical Understanding from Year 1 to Year 6.

Children will cover units on Number, Measure, Geometry, Statistics and Algebra.

There is an emphasis on learning key concepts, being able to reason, developing fluency and problem solving.

Concept - 'the doing'

Reasoning - articulating thinking

Fluency - recalling and applying mathematical knowledge accurately and appropriately

Problem solving - applying mathematics to a variety of problems with increasing sophistication

Assessment of children's progress is based on teacher assessment and reported at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2.

Where appropriate, cross curricular links are made to the children's class topic to enhance the understanding and application of mathematical skills to real life situations.

Mathematics is taught with an emphasis on understanding rather than 'doing tricks' to get the right answer .



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Science

Science should stimulate and excite pupils' curiosity about phenomena and events in the world around them. It also satisfies this curiosity with knowledge.

As science links direct practical experiences with ideas, it can engage learners at many levels (Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2).

In our school we aim to teach science in a fun and exciting manner that allows children to explore and investigate in a practical way.

We work from the programmes of study from the National Curriculum which include:

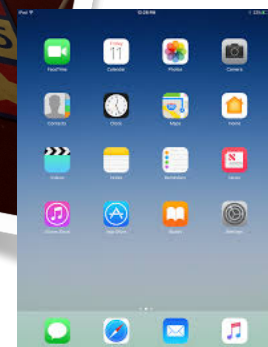
1. Scientific enquiry
2. Life processes and living things
3. Materials and their properties
4. Physical processes

Information & Communications Technology

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) education at Victoria Road School is very much inherent in all areas of the curriculum. It is important for our children to have ICT awareness and skills in today's technology abundant society. This includes providing children with an awareness of e-safety and steps they can take to try to stay safe online. Children are exposed to a range of ICT equipment, programs and experiences from the Foundation Stage through to Year 6. We use a range of devices to support learning across our curriculum, including iPad and MacBook devices. Children also develop specific ICT skills which they can apply across our curriculum.



Children are exposed to a range of ICT equipment, programs and experiences from the Foundation Stage through to Year 6.



We believe in using technology as a means of communication. We use technology daily to enhance and support our learning throughout the curriculum.

Your child will have their own portfolio on Class Dojo that follows them through school. This will allow you to observe your child's learning and provide your own praise by leaving personalised comments and 'likes'.

Children have supervised access to the internet which is protected by the departments firewall and security precautions. Details of steps taken to try and



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The Curriculum

Victoria Road School

The following foundation subjects are taught through cross curricular topics and based on the National Curriculum's programmes of study, including the Manx Curriculum:

Geography

Art

Design and Technology

History

Religious Education

Music - Peripatetic Music Teachers visit the School providing opportunity for tuition in String and Woodwind instruments. There is a charge for tuition and a hire charge for the instruments.

Physical Education - In Key Stage 2 children go swimming each week during the Autumn and Spring terms and will need to bring their swimming kit and towel. We also a highly skilled MSR coach teach the children once a week. Jewellery must be removed before any P.E. or swimming lessons.

SEL - All pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of their school and local community. Our curriculum provides a whole school approach to promoting social, emotional and behavioural skills.

Additionally, from Year 4 parents can elect for their children to follow a course in Manx language.

All our children partake in Forest School (on site) for a half term across the year.

Children with additional needs

Our school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all children. The National Curriculum is our starting point for planning to meet the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. When planning, teachers set suitable learning challenges and respond to children's diverse learning needs. Some children have barriers to learning that mean they have additional needs and require particular action by the school which may include identification according to their difficulty. Parents will be kept informed of the provision that is being made for their children and involved in its implementation.



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Home Learning

We are very keen to involve our whole community in learning and recognise the valuable contribution of extending pupils' learning into the home environment. Each pupil from Reception to Year 6 will be expected to do some home learning varying in type and quantity. Home learning allows pupils to take responsibility for their own learning, creates a seamless link between school and home, and prepares them for Secondary school.

Parents can help by listening to your child read every day and questioning them about their reading. Also, encourage your child to understand the importance of home learning by providing a quiet area for them to work and making sure they complete any tasks given.

Throughout the school there is an emphasis on reading. Knowledge organisers are sent home every half-term to outline the key areas of learning for your child. This will help you to develop your child's learning at home. We also use knowledge organisers to suggest active learning opportunities that can be completed at home with your child and shared with school via Class Dojo.

Additional Activities

Many extra-curricular activities are provided. Usually, these are for the older children but, depending on numbers, younger children may be able to join some of the clubs.

Our school believes in educating the whole child. Thus, we endeavour to give your child as many opportunities as possible in taking part in events outside of school. These may include sporting events, eg. football, netball competitions, short tennis and swimming; and music and drama events, eg. concerts and performances. Such events are key in making the school a focus point and natural companion for the local community.

We believe these experiences complement the learning that takes place within the curriculum and we feel we have succeeded if our pupils continue their sports at clubs outside school.

Pupil Leadership

At Victoria Road School, it is important that our children have a voice. Therefore, we offer a range of leadership roles to ensure that they have a say on the future development of the school.

These include:

- House Captains
- Pupil Council
- Digital Leaders
- Eco Council



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Reporting on Pupils' Progress

Parent Consultation Afternoons provide a formal opportunity to discuss your child's progress. However, should you be concerned about any aspect of your child's learning at any other time, a meeting with his/her teacher can be arranged, usually after 3.30 pm by contacting the school office or via Class Dojo.

School Visits

School visits are an integral part of our studies supporting various areas of the curriculum. We would be grateful if you would complete the consent form for local trips when your child starts school.

Educational visits occur frequently during the year. A contribution towards transport is required, as no finance comes from educational allowances.

Local studies are covered during some part of the year in each class. This includes visits in the local vicinity, usually on foot and parents are encouraged to come along and help break the class into smaller groups. For more distant journeys we use a local coach company and go for the day.

From time to time, we organise residential visits. For our older pupils, we visit the Venture Centre in Maughold and Wales.

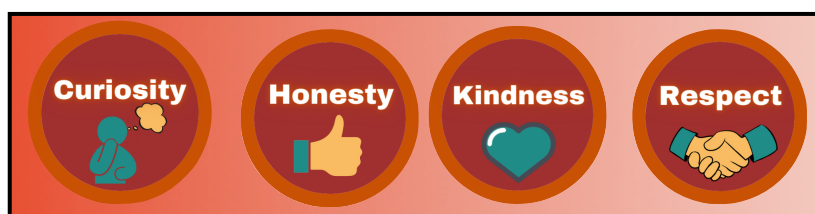
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Our Code of Conduct



Behaviour and Relationship Policy

At Victoria Road School we recognise that it is important to reward good behaviour and to sanction poor behaviour. Good behaviour is rewarded with praise and used as a positive example to others.

The following is expected

- Engaging with learning
- Accepting responsibility for choices and actions
- Following reasonable instructions
- Politeness

Rewards

Children making positive choices will have that behaviour reinforced and celebrated through, for example

- verbal and non-verbal reinforcement: praise, thumbs up
- recognition boards
- stickers
- positive notes
- visits to the Headteacher
- posts on ClassDojo
- the provision of special roles & responsibilities
- learning jungle certificates
- top cat certificates

Sanctions

If pupils choose not to conform to expectations, a system of stepped sanctions is used consistently across the school. For most, this will involve supportive reminders of expectations, changes of face or space where necessary and consequences that repair any damage done. Examples might include a written apology, tidying up or completing work during a break time. In the most extreme circumstances, there could be a requirement to be off site at lunchtime, a modified timetable or formal suspension.

It is important that we work together to address any behaviour issues so please contact the school if you have any concerns.

Bullying

Bullying by its nature is secretive and can be difficult to detect. Children bullying others will be reported to their parents. The school has a clear anti-bullying policy and copies of this are available on the school website, along with all school policies.

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thefriendsof **VICTORIA ROAD**

Friends of Victoria Road School

The Friends of Victoria Road School is a fundraising and social organisation that runs many events throughout the school year.

The committee is always on the look out for new members and new ideas. All parents are entitled to be on the committee - all they have to do is attend the A.G.M. in September.

During the year many different events are organised, in the past these have included: discos, movie nights, craft fayres, a summer fayre and lots of other activities.

Publicity

From time to time Victoria Road School wishes to publicise its activities and to celebrate the success of its pupils to the wider community. Examples of such occasions are when pupils have participated in a school production, sporting event or charitable activity.

The school would therefore be grateful if you would give permission for your child to be included in such publicity by completing a consent form when your child starts school.

DISCLAIMER

The information supplied in this document is in accordance with information at present available to the Authority and is believed to be correct at the date of printing.

In particular, nothing herein prejudices the right of the Education committee or any of its subcommittees or the Head of the school to make any decision relating to the school as is seen fit, without regard to whether this will affect the accuracy of any matters contained in this publication.

Further, neither the Department of Education, Sport & Culture nor the school, nor any member of the Authority or school, is legally responsible for any erroneous information contained in this document.

Mr N Johnstone (Headteacher)

How can you help us?

In our experience parents/guardians have all kinds of hidden talents that they are able and happy to use to enhance the learning opportunities of the children in the school.

We would really appreciate it if you could think about what you may be able to offer and contact school to let us know.





Victoria Road Primary School, School Lane, Victoria Road, Castletown, Isle of Man, IM9 1BA

Tel: 01624 822208,

E-mail: victoriardenquiries@sch.im

<https://victoriaroad.sch.im>