

# Parent Handbook



# Welcome to Willaston Primary School

At Willaston School we believe that in order to raise aspirations and expectations we should expect the best from ourselves and others; have high standards in behaviour, appearance, presentation and environment; challenge children and take them to the edge of their capabilities, and in doing so encourage children to challenge themselves; enable children to learn independently, applying the skills that they have learned; be brave enough and informed enough to take considered risks; be engaged enough to question; inform parents and carers about the learning that is taking place; and provide opportunities for parents to further their own learning.

We offer you a **warm** welcome to the Willaston School Family and look forward to meeting you and your children as they embark upon their exciting journey with us.



**MAXIM KELLY**  
Executive Headteacher



**BETH LACE**  
Head of School

# Willaston Primary School

Willaston Primary School is located in the City of Douglas in the Isle of Man. Willaston School forms the beating heart of the Willaston Community, providing education for children from the ages of 4 to 11, Reception to Year 6. Forming part of a partnership with Dhoon School and Laxey School, the overall responsibility for the schools lies with the Executive Headteacher, Maxim Kelly, and the day to day organisation of Willaston School is overseen by Beth Lace, Head of School



# Wows and Wonders

At Willaston School we are committed to encouraging our children to aim high and aspire to great things. We want them to become life long learners who take pride in their learning. Every Friday we have our Celebration Assembly to award children with Willaston Wow Moments and Willaston Wonders. We celebrate the children's effort, achievement, learning attitudes and progress with our Wonders and Wows.



# Willaston Values

Everything we do at Willaston is built upon our three core values of Fair, Respect and Safe. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and encourage them to uphold these core values in all aspects of life. You will become very familiar with the language we use around Fair, Respect and Safe as this is embedded in both staff and pupils' everyday language.



# Early Years Foundation Stage



Our Foundation Stage Curriculum allows children to learn by exploring, talking about their learning, practising skills and being active.

It is important to us that your child is happy at school and from their first days with us in Reception, our children enjoy exciting, engaging learning experiences alongside their peers, enabling them to feel safe, secure and confident in their new environment.

## KEY FEATURES:

- Safe and nurturing, high quality learning environment.
- Multi-sensory learning experience for the children – both inside and outside of the classroom.
- Introduction to our growth mindset philosophy, encouraging children to foster positive attitudes towards their learning.
- High quality teaching experience that is meaningful and well planned for.
- Provision encourages the children to explore their thinking, be creative, use their imagination and become active learners.
- Happy, contented, confident children.



# Key Stage One

A broad and balanced curriculum is provided in Key Stage One, with exciting and engaging learning opportunities taking place within the classroom environment, the outdoor learning spaces and beyond into the local environment. Throughout this phase, we aim to promote positive attitudes towards learning, making it fun, exciting and enjoyable with specific focus given to phonics, reading, literacy and mathematical skills.

## KEY FEATURES:

- In Key Stage One, children are provided with a broad and balanced curriculum through a range of exciting and engaging learning activities in and outside of the classroom.
- Calm yet stimulating learning environments.
- Thematic approach to help children make links in their learning.
- Whole class reading and guided reading sessions to develop skills and promote a love of reading.
- Develop and foster positive attitude towards learning, valuing all contributions whilst meeting their individual needs.
- Learning about our community as well as the wider world.
- Keeping ourselves active and healthy.
- At the core of Key Stage One the children will be developing their literacy, phonics and numeracy skills. The children will learn these skills through a fostering of enjoyment, perseverance and determination to succeed.



# Key Stage Two



Throughout Key Stage Two we continue to provide a broad and balanced curriculum through our thematic approach. Carefully planned, quality teaching and learning activities promote a love of learning, celebrate high expectations and spark curiosity and creativity.

## KEY FEATURES:

- Calm yet stimulating learning environments.
- Development of a 'Growth Mindset' with opportunities for children to direct their own learning, set themselves goals and challenge themselves.
- Teacher, self and peer assessment.
- Daily phonics and spelling sessions.
- Whole Class Reading and Guided Reading sessions to develop skills and promote a love of reading.
- Development of writing composition strategies through Talk for Writing, modelling and shared writing.
- Sentence construction skills (including grammar) developed through extensive practice,
- A deeper understanding, confidence and competence in Mathematics through a 'Maths Mastery' approach.



- Regular times tables practice.
- A combination of formal teaching and collaborative learning activities.
- Celebration of our culture, language and heritage.
- Keeping ourselves active and healthy.
- Learning takes determination but is fun and rewarding!

## Snacks and Drinks

Children are welcome to bring in a healthy snack to eat at playtimes. This could be fruit, vegetables or breadsticks etc. *We do ask that items with nuts in is **not** brought into school as we have several children with severe allergies.*

All children are provided with their own cup in school and encouraged to drink regularly from our water coolers.

## Lunchtime

We provide hot and healthy dinners at Willaston School which are paid for via Parent Pay. Dinner menus are emailed to all parents and displayed by the school office. The children have two options to choose from daily as well as having access to our lovely salad bar. If you prefer your child to have packed lunch, we would just ask that no fizzy drinks or energy drinks are included. *We also ask that **no items with nuts** are included as we have several children with severe allergies.*

## School times

<b>Start of School</b>	<b>8.55 a.m.</b>
<b>Playtime</b>	<b>10.25 p.m.</b>
<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>12.00 noon – 1:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Brain break</b> - this will be taken as and when there is a natural pause in the learning during the afternoon.	
<b>Home Time</b>	<b>3.30 p.m.</b>

## School Uniform

Our pupils wear uniform from Reception through to Year 6. Navy blue school sweatshirts, featuring our school logo, should be worn over red polo shirts. They are worn with black or grey school trousers, black or grey shorts or black or grey skirts. In the summer, girls may wear red or blue checked cotton dresses. Children are to wear black shoes.

## PE Kit

All children require black shorts, a white t shirt and pumps for indoor activities.

## Pupil Voice

At Willaston School we believe that every child has a voice and knows that their views are valued and respected by both staff and peers. We have our Pupil Council who are actively involved in providing children's viewpoints on all aspects of school life as well as meeting regularly to coordinate fundraising events.

## Safeguarding

At Willaston School, we pride ourselves on being a warm, caring and safe place for all our pupils. We create a very nurturing environment which helps develop our pupils' social, emotional and mental health.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

**BETH LACE**

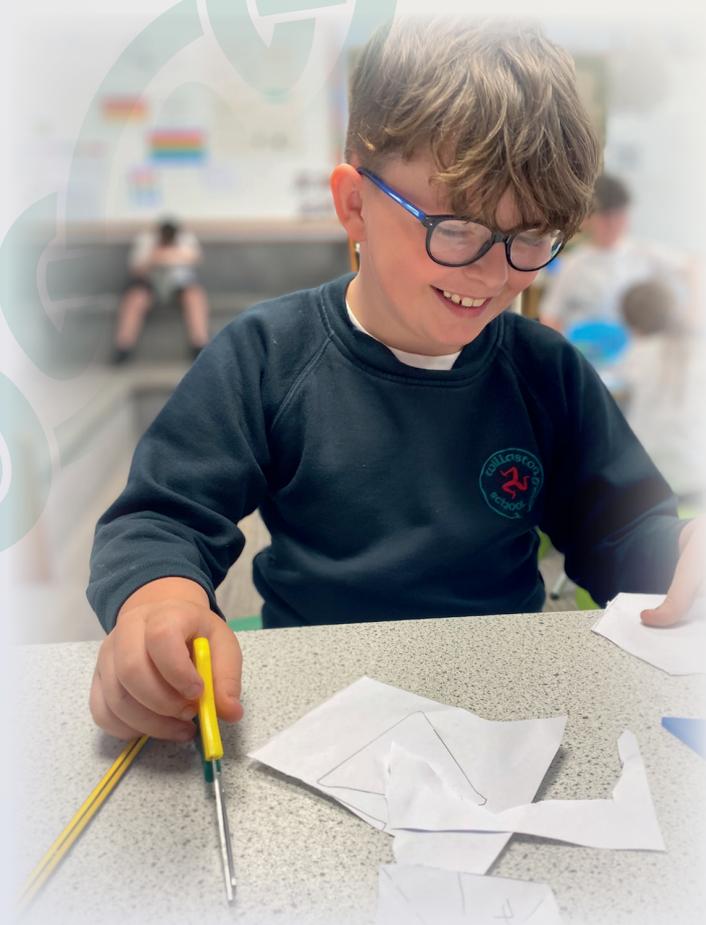
### FURTHER CONTACT

We hope that you have found the information in our Parent Handbook helpful.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions or if there is anything we can help you with.

Email: [willastonenquiries@sch.im](mailto:willastonenquiries@sch.im)

Phone: 01624 621577





## **WILLASTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER – MAXIM KELLY**

**HEAD OF SCHOOL – BETH LACE**

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