

School Prospectus



"Enjoy learning; aim high!"



Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in our school. At Mersey Drive we are committed to providing the highest quality education possible for all, regardless of race, class, gender, ability or disability in partnership with parents/carers.

We aim to ensure that every child realises his or her potential fully through work and play and goes on to secondary education equipped and ready academically and socially.

Mersey Drive is a hard working and happy school. We have wonderful children and exceptional staff. We are proud of how our parents/carers, our governors, our staff and our children all work together to create and maintain a secure, broad and balanced curriculum within a rigorous but happy learning environment.

We hope you find the information you need about our school here, but if you have any other questions please ring our very helpful office. Please come and visit our school and see our classrooms, our computer suite, our Foundation Stage Unit, our Arches and Bridges units, but most of all meet some of our children and experience their work and achievements on your tour of our school.

Mr R Armitage BEd (Honours) NPQH
Head Teacher

Why Choose Mersey Drive ?

"Mersey Drive is a good school where pupils enjoy their learning and achieve well" (Ofsted 2008)

Good Behaviour – At Mersey Drive we insist upon good behaviour and respect. We feel strongly that good behaviour is a necessary condition for effective teaching and learning to take place. We will work closely with you as parents to maintain and promote these standards.

Lively environment and excellent resources – We aim to make school a fun place to be and learn. We are constantly developing a creative skills based curriculum, which provides a framework for fun and exciting lessons.

Good teacher: pupil ratios – we have maximum class sizes of 25 in KS2, KS1 and Foundation Stage. With the support of experienced Teaching Assistants this means we are well staffed to look after the individual needs of your child.

Good Results – Over the past four years children leaving Mersey Drive in Year Six have made **excellent progress**. Mersey Drive has performed in the top 5% of schools nationally since 2010.

MISSION STATEMENT

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk



At Mersey Drive we plan to provide a caring, happy environment, with inspiring learning experiences where all children are developed to their fullest potential for lifelong learning.

This will enable them to enjoy learning and aim high in school and in the wider community.

We seek to develop a sense of respect, independence and responsibility, preparing all children for a happy, healthy, safe and fulfilling future.



General Information

Address: Mersey Drive
Whitefield
Manchester
M45 8LN

Telephone: 0161 766 6298
0161 796 3976

Fax: 0161 796 3423

E-mail: merseydrive@bury.gov.uk
Website: www.merseydrive.org.uk

ARCHES: 0161 796 3430

Head Teacher: Mr R Armitage B.Ed (Hons) NPQH
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs J Ellis B.Ed (Hons)
Assistant Headteacher: Miss A Ridley B.Ed (Hons)
Chair of Governors: Mrs. A. Audin

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Admissions Policy

Nursery

The Foundation Stage Unit offers free part time and full time places for children who will be attending our school. The Nursery also offers part time (free) places for children the term after they have reached their 3rd Birthday, if they are going to attend our school. We would advise that you put your child's name and school preference on waiting list when your child is 2 and a half years old. For more details copies of the Nursery Admissions Policy are available from the school office.

Reception

Bury LEA manages primary admissions, application forms are sent out by them and returned to the Education Department by the due date. Formal offers of places are sent out in accordance with the LEA's policy and agreed timetable, usually in April. We have places for 25 children in Reception.

Admission Criteria

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN BURY

1. Looked After Children
2. Children who have an older brother or sister in the school in September 2006. For this purpose, a brother or sister may be a full or a stepbrother or a full or a stepsister, living at the same address, at the time of admission
3. Other children

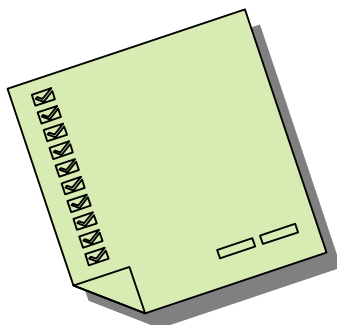
If there is over subscription in any category, places will be offered using the shortest available, reasonable walking distance from home to school.

Children whose Statements of Special Educational Needs name a school in the Statement are required to be admitted to the school which is named. The allocation of places for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs will be carried out prior to the normal admission process.

Parents can state reasons for their preferences. However, the criteria given above will be used to offer places.

Admissions to the rest of the school

Please enquire if there are any vacancies and then fill in an application form.



Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Who's Who

Teaching Staff

Mr R Armitage (Headteacher)	
Mrs J Ellis (Assistant Headteacher/SENCo)	
Miss A Ridley (Assistant Headteacher)	Year 4/5 Teacher
Mrs J McConkey	Year 6 Teacher
Mrs M Goodman	Year 3 Teacher
Mrs I Hirst	Year 2 Teacher
Miss J Latham	Year 1 Teacher
Miss T Middleton	Nursery Teacher
Mrs C Marriott-Moncrieffe	Reception Teacher/FSU Co-ordinator
Miss A Botham	Teacher in Charge Arches/Bridges
Mrs G Eisen	Teacher in Bridges
Miss L Yates	Teacher in Arches/Bridges
Ms D Rankine	Teacher in Arches/Bridges

Support Staff

Mrs J Ramsden	Mrs D Ball
Miss E Booth	Mrs R Harris
Mrs D Humphrey	Mrs D Curran
Mrs M Shabir	Miss L Haughton
Mrs L Bladen	Mrs S Alotia
Miss L Mc Swiggan	Mrs J Fannon
Mrs T Clarke	Mrs K Lee
Miss C Jackson	Mrs D McGywnn
Miss L Roberts	Miss J Ryan

Admin Staff

Mrs J Dickerson
Mrs M Thornley

Midday Assistants/Kitchen Staff

Mrs G Simms	Miss C Campbell
Mrs A Riley	Ms K Hall
Mrs J Harper	Mrs T Doherty
Mrs E Hopkinson	Mrs D White
Miss M McGywnn	

Caretaker/Cleaners

Mr D Corkill
Mrs D White
Miss C Campbell

The School Day

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

All Foundation and Key Stage One children must be brought to school and collected by a responsible adult.

Foundation Stage

Morning Session -8.50 am to 11.50 am
Afternoon Session -12.15 pm to 3.15 pm

Key Stage One

Morning Session -9.00 am to 12.05 pm
Afternoon Session -1.15 pm to 3.20 pm

Key Stage Two

Morning Session -9.00 am to 12.15 pm
Afternoon Session -1.15 pm to 3.20 pm

The Head teacher is on the playground from 8:40am. The school doors open at 8.50am and children can come into school from then and go into their classes before the bell for registration at 9.00 am, this promotes a relaxed and calm start to the day.

In order to keep your children safe, we lock the school doors at 9.05 am (the end of registration) and the only access to the school is then through the main doors.

Lateness/ Absences

School starts at 9.00am. If your child arrives after 9.05am they will be marked late in the register. The Education Welfare Officer monitors our registers on a fortnightly basis, and will follow up any frequent lates, ultimately resulting in possible fines. If your child is poorly please telephone the school office and let us know. If we have not heard from you by 10.00 am one of the office staff will telephone you to ensure your child's safety. Punctuality and regular attendance are important if your child is to learn well and make friends.

Holidays during Term Time

Taking time off school during term time can disrupt your child's education. The Headteacher may authorise absence during term time in exceptional circumstances. Please obtain a holiday request form from the office. The maximum time that can be authorised is 10 school days once in the child's school career. If you take holidays in term time you may be issued with a penalty notice. Please note that Year 6 pupils will not be given authorised absences during May-SATs month.



Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Curriculum

Foundation Stage

Nursery and Reception classes are known as the Foundation Stage Unit. The FSU follows the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) curriculum and it is organised into six interrelated areas of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication, language and literacy
- Mathematical development- Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development
- Creative development



When your child starts in the FSU you will receive a small brochure explaining the curriculum further and giving you more information about what your child will need for when they start. At Mersey Drive is well equipped for 21st Century learning; every classroom has an interactive whiteboard, we have a new ICT suite, plus a bank of laptops with wireless connection. We have extensive outdoor learning opportunities including; outdoor learning provision in Foundation Stage, a large school field backing onto paddocks, a secure quad garden with pond and raised beds for planting. A large playground with; shelter, performance stage, bike shelter and pitches for football, netball and basket ball.

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

The National Curriculum

The National Curriculum applies to pupils of compulsory school age in community schools. It is organised into Key Stages, which are broadly as follows:

	Pupils ages	Year groups
Key Stage One	5-7	1, 2
Key Stage Two	7-11	3, 4, 5 and 6

There are Core Subjects:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Science
- ICT

and Foundation subjects:

- History
- Geography
- Physical Education
- Art
- Design Technology
- Music
- Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)



The National curriculum is personalised by the staff for Mersey Drive children, through a skills led approach. Our curriculum provides lots of experiences for the children in the form of trips, visits and guests. The aim is to develop the children as lifelong learners.

Assemblies and Collective Worship

We are required by the Education Reform Act to involve all registered children (apart from Nursery) in an act of collective worship of wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. We have a whole school assembly on a Monday and Key Stage assemblies on Wednesday on carefully selected themes. Fridays are class assembly day and each class takes it in turns to show their work at an Assembly. We also have 'Treasure Chest Assemblies' where teachers choose children to be our treasures. Parents will receive a written invitation or a phone call if their child has been chosen.

".....the school provides a secure and positive environment for learning where pupils feel valued..." (Ofsted 2008)

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Behaviour /code of conduct

To help meet parents', childrens' and teachers' expectations there are a few rules which we believe are perfectly reasonable and should have the support of all parents. We call them our **Code of conduct** and they have been drawn up following discussion with children in class and through consultation with the School Council.

At Mersey Drive we **enjoy learning and aim high** by...

1. Trying our best in all we do
2. Listening and allowing others to listen
3. Thinking before we speak
4. Keeping our hands and feet to ourselves
5. Always moving around the school safely
6. Treating others as we wish to be treated

Children who break our school code of conduct waste teachers' teaching time and stop other children learning : ***no child has the right to do this.*** We use sanctions to show that we will not put up with disruption to teaching and learning and to deter children from breaking our rules again.

The scale of sanctions is as follows:

1. verbal warning
2. name on board = final warning
3. name + cross = miss 10 minutes of playtime (to be spent outside the headteacher's room)
4. name + 2 crosses =sent to headteacher/assistant headteacher; miss playtime; parents informed; recorded in head's behaviour log. (Sanction decided by headteacher and/or assistant headteacher)
5. If a child is sent to the Headteacher 3 times in one term – the child will be placed on a behaviour contract.

Rewards

At Mersey Drive we have a **positive** behaviour policy. Parents are welcome to ask for a copy. We have a house system, children receive house points for good behaviour and work. Each half term every child in the winning house receives a small prize. We give out hand print points as a whole class reward for good conduct. *When a class has earned 30 Handprint points, they get an extra playtime.*

Fortnightly, we nominate children from each class to be our treasures.

Nominated children receive a certificate in the 'Treasure Chest' assembly to which parents are invited. School Trophies: These are named after Janet Mawson and Tom Hanson and are presented to children in each class at the end of each term to mark high achievement or good effort in curriculum and other areas.

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Special Educational Needs

At Mersey Drive we respond to all our children's educational needs and recognise that each individual child may have a special need at some point in their school life. It is the school's policy to support our children's needs by positive early intervention. The earlier a need is identified and a programme is put into place the better for the child.

We follow the Revised Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs (SEN). We involve parents from the beginning of our concerns, and set up individual programmes for children, putting in extra support where needed. We work closely with various outside agencies to help us do the very best job for your child.

We have a well-developed policy to ensure that our curriculum closely matches the needs of all our pupils and we make use of resources to provide support when needed. Our school welcomes pupils with SEN and we differentiate work in the classroom at all levels, lower and higher ability. Mersey Drive has a wonderful reputation throughout the LEA for its successes with children with a wide range of SEN. All children benefit from our specialist staff, a favourable staff-pupil ratio, and access to a highly skilled SEN teacher.

Children with physical needs are welcome in our school. We have disabled facilities and the school is all on ground level with ramps and easy access.

ARCHES /BRIDGES

Arches are a specialist provision for children with an autistic spectrum disorder, or social or communication disorders. We have a team of qualified and experienced staff offering expertise to the provision and also to the school.

At Arches we aim to create a positive learning environment, developed for each individual child using a range of specialist strategies and techniques. In 2008 Ofsted reported that "...pupils with specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities who are part of Arches are very well provided for..."

Admission to the provision is decided by the boroughs educational panel.

For further information please contact Miss Botham (Teacher in Charge).

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Assessment

We believe the assessment of children is essential in planning the progression of each child's learning. Teachers continually assess work and set targets for children to move them forward. Records of all pupils' progress are regularly updated.

Children are encouraged to assess their own work and to know and understand their own targets, which will take their learning forward. We have a clear Assessment Policy in school, with regular testing and teacher assessments. We track each child's progress five times a year to ensure we fully meet their needs. Your child will be supported and encouraged in order to reach their potential.

As part of the requirements of the National Curriculum children are assessed by Standard Assessment Tasks (SATs) in Year 6. We also use the optional SATs from Year 2-Year 5. The Foundation Stage Profile is completed at the end of Reception; assessing all the areas of learning they cover.

Target Setting

Targets are set by the class teacher every term and are shared with children and parents/carers at parent interviews and/or reports in October, March and June.

2010-2011 KS2 SATs results

Over the past four years results at the end of Key Stage Two have followed a rising trend. In 2010-2011 Mersey Drive ranked joint 1st out of the 63 Bury LA primary schools for its Key Stage Two SATs results.

This makes the school one of the best performing schools in Bury! Furthermore we are in the top 5% of the best performing schools nationally.

The schools CVA result has been consistently good over the past few years, proving that children who spend their full academic time at the school, make exceptional progress.

KS2 Outcomes 2010-2011 *(Percentage of children that achieved Level 4 or above)*

	Maths	Reading	Writing
Mersey Drive	100%	100%	100%
Local Authority	82%	85%	78%
National	80%	84%	71%

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Uniform

At Mersey Drive we pride ourselves on the smart appearance of the children. We have a lovely easy to wear uniform, which is available from the school office at a very reasonable price. School makes no profit from selling this, as we would rather see everyone wearing it.

Sweatshirt-bright red

Polo shirt-white

Skirt/trousers-grey

In summer girls may wear striped or gingham red/white dresses

Black School Shoes

Year 6 wear a black sweatshirt, as a special privilege for being the oldest.

We expect all children to be dressed appropriately and to be clean and neat in appearance. Extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. Shoes should be suitable for the active times the children have in the playground.

JEANS AND FOOTBALL TOPS ARE NOT PERMITTED

PE Kit

T-shirt (preferably red)

Shorts (preferably black)

Pumps

Trainers for outdoor Games

Jewellery

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery in school apart from stud earrings (which should be removed or taped up during PE for safety reasons) and a watch.

"When we go on school trips it shows we are together." Joshua

"In the morning you know what to put on." Chloe

"It makes you feel part of the school and not left out or different." Rhys



Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Mersey Drive is a Healthy School

Water

We provide all children with water bottles which they can fill with water in school every day. Research shows bodies work and learn better when they are hydrated. Flavoured water contains sugar and is NOT a suitable substitute. Children can have juice and milk at lunch time.

Playtime Snacks

Children are encouraged to choose healthy playtime snacks. We sell fruit at school each playtime. Please do not send chocolates, sweets or crisps to school.

Lunchtimes

Children can stay for a school lunch and have a choice of meal; there are always sandwiches and salads available as well as nutritious hot meals, for your child to choose from. Parents who claim benefits may be entitled to free lunches and need to speak to the Education Department about registering for this. Children may also bring a balanced packed lunch. Fizzy drinks, sweets and chocolates are not allowed.



School Health Adviser

We have a school health adviser who carries out routine checks for hearing and eyesight, and is available for advice on a range of matters throughout your child's school career. Parents/carers are always informed and asked to sign a permission slip to allow this to happen. Parents are always invited to attend. Dental inspections also take place regularly.

Sex Education

Sex Education is part of a cross curricular programme of Personal, Social and Health Education. It is based on the National Curriculum requirements in Science. The policy statement and programme of work is included in the pack. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from these lessons.

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Illness

When your child is ill please do not send them to school. It is important that you telephone school to let us know about the absence on the first day as soon as possible in the morning. If we have not heard from you we will need to telephone you, to ensure the safety of your children at all times. On your child's return to school please send a letter explaining the reason for their absence. It is very important that we are able to contact you during the school day in case your child becomes ill or has an accident. Please make sure you tell us if the phone numbers where you live or work change. If hospital treatment is necessary doctors will not give treatment without parents/carers permission.

It is really important we have emergency contact numbers for you, so please ensure you always update us on changes in telephone numbers.



Medicines

School staff are no longer able to administer medication. If your child needs to take medicine, tablets, apply cream or drops, whilst at school you must come into school to administer at a set time. If it is an ongoing complaint a medical care plan will need to be completed alongside the School Health Adviser and the class teacher.

If in doubt, please ring our cheerful office staff- Mrs. Thornley and Mrs. Dickerson.

Eco School Council and Play leaders

In order to give our older pupils a sense of responsibility and all pupils an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions about their school we have a School Council and play leaders at Lunch time.

The Eco School Council is made up of twelve pupils from YR, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 and Bridges and Arches who are elected by the rest of the pupils to represent them. Meetings take place twice each half term with Mrs Marriott-Moncrieffe, Mrs Ramsden or Miss Middleton. The pupils are responsible for deciding on items to be discussed and communicating their decisions back to the rest of the school.

Year Six and Year Five pupils apply for the position of Playleader member and if selected they help younger pupils at playtimes and lunchtimes. They help anyone who might be lonely or hurt. They also teach the younger pupils how to play games.

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is available to all children from 8.00a.m. There is a small charge for this; children are given a choice of breakfast items and a drink. Children get to play in a closely supervised environment before being taken to class at 8.50a.m. It's a great way to start the day and helps parents/ carers out too!

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-Curricular activities take place at lunchtimes and after school. The school offers the pupils a range of opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities. At any time there may be a range of activities depending on the time of year and other commitments on time. Currently the school offers the following:

Football, Netball, Cross country, ICT KS1, ICT KS2, Cooking club (KS1), knitting club, singing, arts clubs, gardening club and homework club.

Throughout the year we work in partnership with Bury Music Service to provide music tuition. Bury Music Service are collated on our site and provide a fantastic resource for the community.



Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

School-Home Communication

Newsletters/Letters

Newsletters are issued every two weeks and like all letters home are sent home on Thursdays. Please check your child's bag on Thursdays! If you would like Newsletters to be emailed to you, please contact the school office.

Parent/carers evenings

These take place three times a year. You will find out how your child is getting on at school, see and contribute to the targets being set for your child/ren and be able to discuss them with the teacher.

School reports

These are distributed once a year in the summer term, in time for you to discuss the contents at one of the open evenings. We also provide a short progress report on your child during spring term.

Other meetings with staff

Our teachers are always pleased to meet parents and carers, however they are busy people, so be sure of getting the time that you need it is best to make an appointment with the class teacher. Unless it is an emergency, if you need to see Mr Armitage or Mrs Ellis, please make an appointment first to make sure they are available by calling in or telephoning the school office.

Home-School Agreement

When children start at our school, parents, carers, children and teachers all sign a Home-School Agreement, which clearly sets out what we can expect from one another during the child's time at Mersey Drive.

Child Protection/Safeguarding

The school also recognises its obligations to protect the interests of all the children it serves through its acceptance of the need for inter-agency co-operation for the protection of children from abuse. This follows on from the Children Act 1989, and means that there could be occasions where the school is under an obligation to refer specified professional concerns on children to appropriate agencies within Bury's child protection system. Parents are welcome to see a copy of our school policy. Due to their day to day contact with individual children during school terms, teachers and other school staff are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop.

Mr. Armitage and Mrs. Ellis are the designate teachers for Child Protection at the school.

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk

Complaints

Parents expressing any school related concern are invited to consult with the class teacher, Assistant Headteacher or Headteacher. Should there be an occasion where a parent has a complaint about the conduct of the school or its curriculum; there are school policies. The matter will be referred to the Chair of Governors, who will set up a Complaints Committee to respond to the problem.



Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk



AIMS OF OUR SCHOOL



Be Healthy

To promote healthy lifestyle choices; encourage children to develop a positive sense of well being and equip them for future challenges.

Stay Safe

To ensure a secure, warm and caring environment where the children can feel safe, included and valued while they learn to grow.

Enjoy and Achieve

To provide stimulating and challenging learning experiences that children enjoy.

To promote positive attitudes, exemplary behaviour and cooperation.

To encourage excellent attendance, punctuality and co-operation with all members of the school community.

Make a Positive Contribution

To promote an ethos that values self and encourages respect for oneself, for others and property.

Achieve Economic Wellbeing

To promote self-esteem and strong team-working skills and develop the strategies needed for independent learning.

Find out more at www.merseydriveprimary.org.uk