FURNESS VALE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

2026/2027

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"Happy hearts, enquiring minds, promising futures."

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Dear Parents,

In this booklet the staff, pupils, parents, governors and I have tried to provide you with some useful information as well as tell you a little about our philosophy, organisation, curriculum and the high standards expected of our children. When you have finished reading, if you have questions or wish to view the school, please contact us to arrange a mutually convenient visiting time.

Here at Furness Vale Primary School, we hope to foster feelings of security and happiness within your child so that effective learning may take place.

We look forward to meeting you and working with you for the benefit of your child.

Yours sincerely

Miss Suzanne Kay
Headteacher

OUR SCHOOL

Our school is a County Maintained School situated on a single site in the village of Furness Vale.

Furness Vale is a small and happy school, full of energy and enthusiasm. It has an interesting history going back over one hundred years. Many members of our community attended the school themselves and continue to give us wonderful support.

Although Furness Vale Primary is a village school, we accept pupils from further afield whose parents are looking for a small, active school with a warm atmosphere, where the staff are dedicated to providing a rich learning environment.

The school has four classrooms. One of the rooms can be opened up to enlarge the school hall for assemblies and physical education. Every classroom has an interactive TV and there are iPads for the children to use. We have a library and a separate resource area where pupils may work in groups or individually with a teacher, as well as a staff room and school office, which can provide us with extra study and meeting areas. We also have 'The Friendship Express' for use at lunchtimes - a calm, indoor space where children can develop friendships while playing games.

Our school benefits from small class sizes and favourable pupil teacher ratios. We have facilities for physically impaired pupils and a strong tradition of providing for a range of special and individual needs.

The school has a playground that is brightly painted and marked out for a variety of activities and also has two Astro-turf pitches ideal for sports. In addition, the school has use of a separate, impressive community garden with raised beds, a spinney and sculpture! We also use a large village sports field, which provides facilities for football, rounders, athletics and cricket. We also use this space for Forest School with our younger children.

STATEMENT OF AIMS

At Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School, we aim to provide the best quality learning experiences for all our children in a safe, secure, caring and welcoming atmosphere. It is a place in which children are challenged to become self-confident, independent learners, making good progress to achieve their potential, whatever their starting-point, skills and abilities. There are high expectations in terms of behaviour and learning. We foster respect for and understanding of others within our school and local community, and in the wider world. Children know that they can talk to the adults in school, and that bullying will not be tolerated.

The team of staff work together to maintain the caring and nurturing ethos, culture and values that make our school special. We actively welcome parents as partners in their children's learning, and aim to provide opportunities for constructive feedback about their children's progress. We regularly ask parents for their opinions of the school and how well their children are learning and what we can do to make their experiences even better.

The Governing Board plays an informed, active part in running the school, making a difference to the educational experiences of our children. The governors are made up of a group of people who care passionately about the school. Many of the board members are parents of children who are either in the school now or have been in the past. All the governors care about the well-being and education the children receive. They are supportive and challenging and provide the school with that extra layer of security and accountability.

OUR CODE OF CONDUCT

1. ***Try your best at all times.***

2. ***Treat others, as you would like others to treat you.***

3. ***Always be honest and truthful.***

4. ***Do as you are asked first time.***

5. ***Look after all equipment.***

The pupils with the guidance of the staff have developed this code. Everyone has agreed to abide by it and it is displayed in all the classrooms.

STARTING SCHOOL

This is a very important time for both children and parents and we try our utmost to make this step as straight forward and flexible as possible.

Children may enter the Reception class full-time in SEPTEMBER at the start of the school year in which they are 5.

However, all children are individuals and we are sensitive to their very different needs, so we try to be flexible. If you would like to visit during the daytime you are very welcome, simply make an appointment and the Headteacher will show you round. Children will be invited to regular stay and play sessions so they get used to staff, the environment and routines, making the transition seamless.

Children may enter the Nursery class on a flexible full-time or part-time basis from the age of 3.
Our Early Years Class is made up of Nursery and Reception aged children. Children can start with us the term following their 3rd birthday (they can start with us as soon as they turn 3 but there won't be any funding until the term after they turn three). All children are eligible for 15 hours, which can be used flexibly through morning sessions, full days or afternoon sessions. We also offer 30 hours provision for those who are eligible, again this is flexible with the options to use the 30 hours over 5 days or by condensing the hours into fewer days and making use of our Breakfast and After-school clubs.
In the EYFS class, children are taught by a teacher and highly qualified teaching assistants. The curriculum is delivered through play-based learning. To find out more information about our EYFS classroom please request a copy of our Parental Information for the EYFS Unit booklet.

ADMISSION & NUMBERS

Each academic year there is a maximum number of 20 places available to new entrants. The Education Authority determines these figures. These figures do not automatically guarantee an offer of a place at Furness Vale School.

Admissions Criteria

1. Children in care.

2. Children living in the normal area served by the school at the time of application.

3. Children with siblings in school.

4. Other children whose parents have requested a place. Preference is given to children living nearest to the school, measured by the shortest available route.

Places are allocated according to these ordered criteria.

Admission to the Reception Class

Our standard number for the reception class is 20 pupils and we are unable to admit pupils above this number. If requests for admission are above 20 and you have not been offered a place, please contact the Local Authority, which co-ordinates admissions to all Derbyshire Primary, Infant and Junior Schools. Essentially the Authority acts as a 'clearing house' for all admissions and enables parents to express a preference for one, two or three schools and to place those preferences in rank order. Parents must make their application on a common application form, usually on-line (at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions), to be returned direct to the LA, and give reasons for their preferred schools.

Further information about the co-ordinated admissions scheme is available in the Authority's Parents' Information Booklet – 'How to Apply for a Place at Primary School'.

Admission to the Nursery Class

To apply for a place at our Nursery please complete a school application form and return it to school.

Children Transferring

All applications for children wishing to transfer to Furness Vale Primary School must also be made through the Local Authority. Transferring is easy, simply call Mrs Daniels, in the school office and she'll explain how to make the transfer.

Special Educational Needs

We believe that all pupils should have the opportunity to achieve their potential. We work closely with parents in order to make the best possible preparation for your child. Our Special Needs Coordinator (SENCO) is Mrs Staples.

The school has a statutory duty, under the 1981 Special Educational Needs Act, to make provision for pupils who are exceptionally gifted, who are under achieving or whose academic progress is made difficult for whatever reason.

Due regard will be given to applications from individual pupils who have learning difficulties and/or a physical or sensory impairment when it is felt that we may meet their needs and requirements.

The school works closely with a range of outside agencies, including the Local Authority Psychology Service, SSSEN, Speech and Language Therapists, etc. to ensure that appropriate help and support is available to individual pupils. Our school policy is available for viewing at the Office and on the website.

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL LIFE

Parents can help their children in a variety of ways before they start school. More information is available on the Ready for School in Derbyshire website:
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/readyforschool
Please try to ensure that your child is able to achieve the ten keys for unlocking school readiness:

- I can settle happily without my parent or carer
- I can tell grown-ups and friends what I need
- I can take turns to play and share when I'm playing
- I can go to the toilet on my own and wash my hands
- I can put on my coat and shoes and feed myself
- I can tell a grown-up if I'm happy, sad or cross
- I know that what I say and do can make others happy or unhappy
- I am curios and want to learn and play
- I can stop doing what I'm doing, listen and follow simple instructions
- I enjoy sharing books with grown-ups

Also to help your child it is an advantage for them to:

- talk about stories and activities you have undertaken together
- play with water, paper, paint and other media
- be able to hold a pencil and to use a pair of scissors
- develop manipulative skills, play with Lego®, jigsaws and balls

There is no reason why your child should not start reading before coming to school, but please do not place undue pressure upon them as this might put them off. Encourage the enjoyment of books; use the local library and share books and comics together.

If you want more information to help your child to prepare for school, please speak to Miss Kay (Headteacher) or Miss Heathcote (EYFS teacher)

THE SCHOOL DAY

The main gate is open from 8:45. Staff will be on the playground from 8:45. At this point, parents can choose to stay or leave their children with the staff. The bell will be rung at 8:50 so the children can line up, parents can leave the yard, the gate will be locked and children will go to class. One member of staff will be at the gate which will be closed so that children are kept safely on the yard. If you have a concern or query, you can speak to the staff on duty who will pass on any messages. If you

need to speak to your child's teacher, let the school office know and an appointment can be made at a mutually convenient time.

Start of School:	**8.50 am**
Morning Play:	**10.15 – 10.30 am**
Lunch Time:	**12.00 - 1.00 pm**
End of School Day	**3.20 pm**

A parent or their nominated representative should collect infant children. Each teacher keeps a record of the nominated representatives and changes should be notified to the Office.

Children not collected promptly will be asked to wait in the hall for their own safety. They should be collected from the hall. If you know you might be late, please arrange for your child/ren to attend After School Club.

Responsible junior children may make their own way home with your signed permission. However, they should leave school straight away (unless staying for a club) so that they can cross with the Crossing Patrol, if necessary.

Junior children should not be responsible for infant siblings. If they stay for an after-school club, they should **always** be collected from school when the club finishes.

TEACHING WEEK

The length of the school week is as follows:

32.50 hours

TEACHING GROUPS

	Class Teacher	Year Group	No. of pupils
Class D	Miss Heathcote	Reception & Nursery	8 Reception children plus Nursery pupils
Class C	Miss Nicholls	Years 1 & 2	13 children
Class B	Mrs Guy & Mrs Cioffi	Years 3 & 4	18 children
Class A	Mrs Staples & Mrs Cole	Years 5 & 6	29 children

Parent Helpers
We encourage parents to come and help in school but feel that it is best for parents not to be involved in activities with their own child. We must stress that the parent must be confidential and adhere to the school's Code of Conduct.

Teaching, Learning & Celebrating Achievement
All our pupils are considered as individuals, with their own special strengths and needs. The broad and balanced curriculum that they receive at Furness Vale celebrates these. One of our major aims is for pupils to leave us having gained academic skills and knowledge through first-hand experience as well as physical development, social skills and self-confidence.

Although a pupil's work pattern may be tailor-made for the individual they will also be taught within a defined group, as a member of a class or the whole school.

Children have a role in setting their own individual targets for attainment and assessing their progress. We have a 'DoJo Points' system to recognise good work, achievement, effort and good behaviour in school. We celebrate individual and collective achievement in a variety of ways during our 'Well Done' assemblies.

HPKC (High Peak Kids Council)
Two children also represent the school at the High Peak Kids Council. They join other children within the PEGS cluster and discuss ways for the schools to work together. They do lots of joint activities including raising money for local charities.

BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOL

Children should, first and foremost, learn habits of good behaviour at home.

We try to create a school environment in which we all look after each other. We all have the responsibility to consider other people's feelings and needs as we expect others to consider ours. Everybody has the right to be treated as an individual and to be respected as such.

Our policy with regard to discipline is to be "firm, fair and consistent" to treat the children as any reasonable parent or adult would. The best discipline is self-discipline and learning this degree of self-control is a lengthy process, which if handled carefully, helps to produce responsible and considerate adults. Our Behaviour Policy takes into account the views and ideas of the staff and the children and represents a framework of rules, sanctions and rewards.

In cases of serious and persistent misbehaviour, the child's parents will be informed and requested to take appropriate supportive action.

CHILD PROTECTION

Parents should be aware that all schools are required to take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, the Headteacher is obliged to follow the Child Protection procedures established by the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board and inform Social Care of the concern. We have access to a comprehensive range of professional support services. If you are worried about a child, you should report a concern following the procedure on the school website.

Security

All visitors enter through the main front door into the secure lobby where they are received by School Office staff. When appropriate, they are required to sign the visitors' book and may then be allowed access to the school. The book is a security record and a health & safety requirement.

No unauthorised access is allowed to the playgrounds and you are asked to report to the Office unless you are delivering your child to, or collecting your child from school.

Everyone is asked to remain vigilant and to report promptly any dangerous or suspicious activity in and around school, observed at any time. Anyone who has a concern about safety or security in and around school should speak to Mrs Parry, any other member of staff or to a governor.

Health & Safety

We regularly undertake risk assessments throughout the school. We have regular fire drills so that everyone knows what to do in case of fire. Aspects of health & safety are taught in PHSE lessons and across other curriculum areas.

Road Safety

Parents are reminded that they are responsible for their child's safe journey between home and school. However, we expect standards of good and safe behaviour to be maintained on the journey to and from school. Any breach of the Highway Code or any unsafe behaviour or failure to follow the instructions of the crossing warden will be treated as a breach of school rules.

There is a crossing patrol, before and after school, on the busy A6 crossing and there is a pelican crossing nearby. Children will be instructed periodically, as part of the National Curriculum, in Road Safety and the use of the crossing patrols provided. Close liaison between the patrol operations and school will be maintained. During school's timetabled activities, children will be supervised by staff who will act in loco parentis. The patrol is not available for children staying after school for clubs and activities.

HOME/SCHOOL LIAISON

We believe that the children gain considerably when parents and staff work closely together. Children react to their parent's enthusiasm and appreciate them taking an interest in their school life.

The school welcomes parents into school to talk to members of staff and we are usually able to meet informally after school. If parents want more private discussions, a meeting may be arranged, although prior notice would be appreciated.

Parents are sent a school report towards the end of the Summer Term. Parents' Evenings take place during the year, when children's work is available to view and discussions are held with class teachers.

Home/School Agreement

We ask you (and your child, if appropriate) to discuss and to sign the Home/School Agreement. This is to record the commitment of everyone to active participation in school life. A copy is available to you from the School Office.

The staff have developed this, with the guidance of the LA and in consultation with pupils and parents.

SCHOOL MEALS

A cooked meal is available at lunchtime if required. Dinner money is payable, in advance, on a Monday morning and you are requested to make the payment on your ParentPay© account for the week. The charge is £3.25 per meal.

A copy of the Dinner Money Policy is available on request.

If you are having difficulty accessing your account, please contact the school office.

From September 2014 ALL pupils in Reception, Year 1 and 2 have been entitled to a Free School Meal.

Please tell us if your child has special dietary requirements and if they are allergic to any foods, colouring agents or preservatives. School meals may not be appropriate under these circumstances but we are able to provide vegetarian choices. Dinners are ordered a week in advance so if you want your child to start having school meals we must be notified a week ahead. If you want your child to change from school dinners to sandwiches, or vice versa, please give a full week's notice.

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals due to financial difficulties, then we encourage you to apply as may bring extra funding in to school.
Apply at…

https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx

Facilities exist for sandwich lunches and the children are allowed to bring plastic flasks. Lunch boxes and flasks must be clearly labelled with the child's name. These should be left in the appropriate storage area.

Children are in the care of Lunchtime Organisers at lunchtime and a member of the teaching staff is always available if the need arises.

Mid-morning Snack
Infant children are provided with fruit mid-morning free of charge. Healthy snacks (low in sugar and fat) may be brought as an alternative but ONLY fruit, fresh or dried, seeds and unsalted nuts are encouraged. Children are taught about having a balanced diet.

CLOTHING AND UNIFORM

We feel that school uniform is attractive, sensible and economical, and creates a school identity. Therefore, we ask parents to encourage their children to wear the following:

- School sweatshirt/cardigan *

- Jade cardigan or jumper
- Grey or black trousers, skirt or shorts
- Polo shirt with logo * or plain polo/shirt
- Summer dress, green & white stripes or green & white checks.
- Appropriate black or grey footwear (not trainers)

These items may be ordered from 'Headmasters' New Mills.

P.E. KIT

The children will need a P.E. kit, which should be contained in a drawstring bag. Summer PE kit consists of: white T-shirt, black shorts and trainers. Winter PE kit consists of: dark tracksuit bottoms or leggings, sweatshirt (not hoodie), white T-shirt and trainers. Long hair should be tied up. Children MUST remove all jewellery before PE lessons. Pumps are strongly discouraged as they don't grip the playground surface as strongly as trainers.

SWIMMING KIT

Girls should wear a costume and boys should wear swimming trunks.
Everyone may choose to wear an all-in-one swimming costume.
Boys can also wear a recognised swimming top.
Children with long hair will need to wear a swimming hat.

Please label all clothing with your child's name.

Please do not send your child to school wearing jewellery.

If your child has pierced ears, studs should be worn. However, these cannot be worn during P.E. or swimming lessons. The child must remove them. It is preferential for children to not wear any jewellery on PE/swimming days.

HOLIDAYS AND UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES

We are required to keep a record of attendance throughout the year, to publish figures and report them to the Local Authority (LA). Attendance is also something that Ofsted pay close attention to.

We believe that children need to be in school for all sessions, so that they can make the most progress possible and do not miss out on crucial learning which may put them at an educational disadvantage. However, we do understand that there are exceptional circumstances in which a parent may legitimately request leave of absence for a child to attend; this does not include family holidays as a general rule. We expect parents and carers to contact the school to obtain authorisation at least two weeks in advance.

Parents and carers have no statutory right to withdraw their children from school for a family holiday. Children are required to attend school for 190 days in a school year, leaving 175 days of weekends and school holidays. Parents and carers should arrange family holidays when their children are not required to be in school.

Our school considers pupils' continuous attendance at school to be so essential for their academic achievement that it is not our policy to routinely authorise an allocation of term time holiday days to families. The Headteacher will individually consider each case.

Long-term absence

When children have an illness that means they will be away from school for over five days, the school will do all it can to send work home, so that, where possible, the child can keep in touch with the learning going on in their class.

If the absence is likely to continue for an extended period, or be a repetitive absence, the school will contact the Local Authority (LA) support services, so that arrangements can be made for the child to be given some tuition outside school, where possible.

The school will contact the parent or carer of any child who has an unauthorised absence. If a child has a repeated number of unauthorised absences, the parents or carers will be asked to visit the school to discuss the reasons. If the situation does not improve, the school will then contact the LA support services, they will visit the home and seek to ensure that the parents or carers understand the seriousness of the situation. If a family take their family on holiday during term time and this is unauthorised then a fine may be sanctioned.

The governors, supported by the LA, reserve the right to consider taking legal action, possibly resulting in a fixed penalty fine, against any parents or carers who repeatedly fail to accept their responsibility for sending their children to school on a regular basis or as above. Our policy on school attendance is published on the school website.

Parents will be informed if unauthorised absence has been recorded for their child.

KEEPING US INFORMED

Please **contact** us:

- on the first day of your child being absent, before 9am
- to let us know how your child is and when they are likely to return
- if you wish to remove your child from class for part of the school day e.g. for a hospital appointment.
- if your child needs to be excused from Physical Education.

Please **telephone** the School Office:

- If your child is to be absent due to illness
- If your child is unable to attend an after-school club
- If you are unable to collect your child from school as planned
- If you need to contact your child during the school day

Please also tell us (in confidence) about anything which may affect your child's ability to participate in school life, as he/she normally would.

We have an obligation to find out where children are, when they're not in school. We will always ring on the first day of absence if you haven't already contacted us.

HOME LEARNING

Reading books are sent home to help and encourage children with their reading. Books are chosen, from a structured reading scheme, and from a level appropriate for their ability. Please try to read with your child for short periods each evening to encourage their progress and love of books.

Home Learning is set each week through the Brain Builder Book. Subjects might include English, Maths, Science and topic work – it varies depending on what children are being taught at the time. Your involvement is strongly encouraged.

Children are expected to learn their multiplication tables by heart, as well as the division facts, by the end of year 4. It is essential that children practice these at home, daily. They will also be expected to prepare for regular spelling tests.

MEDICINES AND HEALTH

If your child needs medication during school time, would you please notify the school office and complete a Medication form. The forms are available on the website and in the school office. We need clear written instructions on how medicines are to be used or taken and whether the child can self-medicate or requires help (with inhalers, for example). If instructions are particularly complicated, then it may be necessary for you to come into school to help your child with their medicines. It is not usually necessary to give doses of antibiotics during the school day and you should talk to your doctor or pharmacist about appropriate use of medicines. The school has a detailed medicines policy and you may want to see this. Children should not be sent to school if they are ill.

It is vital that you tell us about any medical problems which may affect your child whilst at school (e.g. diabetes, epilepsy, asthma and allergies) so that we can agree a course of action in advance should the need arise. Any information given will be treated in confidence.

There is normally a member of staff in school who is trained in First Aid. We will always refer any non-trivial injury for professional medical help and we will make every effort to inform you (or your representative) immediately in the event of significant illness or injury. All accidents are recorded in the Accident Book and you will be informed at the end of the school day if your child sustains a minor injury.

If you are unsure as to how many days your child should be kept away from school because of a specific illness, please contact the Office.

Our School Nurses visits us and carries out health checks. You will be informed if any follow up is appropriate. You can contact the nurse, through school, if you have any concerns about your child's health.

Head lice are a persistent (if harmless) problem, as in any Primary School. We ask you to check your child's hair regularly (at least twice a week) and take appropriate

and prompt action if you find a living, moving louse. Please inform school so that we can make other parents aware that they need to be extra vigilant.

CURRICULUM

The School follows all the subjects of the New National Curriculum with the exception of **Early Years** where the Reception children follow the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Core Subjects

Mathematics
English
Science

Foundation Subjects

Information and Communication Technology
Design and Technology
History
Geography
Modern Foreign Language (Spanish)
Music
Art
Physical Education

Compulsory Subjects

Religious Education
Relationship and Health Education

English

Every class has a daily English Lesson. This involves reading or writing together as a class; a study of phonics, punctuation or grammar; group activities (which may include working with the teacher or independently) and a review session. In addition to the Literacy lesson the school also holds individual and guided reading sessions, and lessons which focus on longer pieces of writing. Mrs Guy is the Coordinator for English and can answer any questions you might have.

Mathematics

The school uses a mastery approach to teaching Maths. Each class has a daily maths lesson, which consists of a mental mathematics session, teacher instruction, activities for the children and a review session. Children are taught in year groups, in similar-ability groups, and at times individually and work is planned with the children's abilities in mind. Topics are carefully mapped out through the year so that there is complete coverage. Mrs Staples is the Coordinator for Maths and can be contacted if you have any questions.

Science

Scientific study covers four main areas:

- Experimental & investigative science
- Life & living processes
- Materials and their properties
- Physical processes

Our aim is to help children increase their knowledge of the world and to develop skills of observation, recording, analysis and interpretation through scientific investigations.

Design & Technology

Children study 3 Design and Technology projects per year. These cover areas such as textiles, food, structures, mechanisms and electrical control, and the scheme of work ensures that there is a progression of skills.

History and Geography

History and Geography are taught through topics. These are chosen to provide both breadth and depth of learning, and are adapted to meet the needs of the children. Teachers use National Curriculum Programmes of Study to inform their planning. They also consider the children's interests when planning which topics to do and always have a 'Hook for Learning' to engage the children. This programme is reviewed annually to ensure that it meets the needs of the children and the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Information & Communication Technology

We have a comprehensive scheme of work with all the software needed to deliver it. By the end of Year 6, children can use the Internet to make a complex search, produce a PowerPoint Presentation, solve problems by using a formula on a spreadsheet and control a set of traffic lights! (Hopefully not the ones on the A6!)

ICT is also encountered in most curriculum areas, and the children are becoming increasingly confident in its use.

Music

Music is taught throughout the school within the framework of the National Curriculum. We also offer wider opportunities through Derbyshire's Music Services. During lunch and break times children can regularly access lessons in Recorder, Hand Bells and Glee Club. Our Christmas and Summer Productions are renowned successes.

Art

Creative ability is developed in Art as well as other subjects. Children are able to experience a range of 2D and 3D media at the same time as being taught the necessary skills. Art work is displayed around the school. We are part of ArtsMark.

Physical Education

We use our main room for indoor physical education, dance and drama. We make full use of our yard, the village all-weather court and village field for games activities, for example: football, netball, tennis, rounders, cricket and athletics. We do the Golden Mile daily and actively encourage children to become fitter. We have Sports Premium funding and a breakdown of what we've spent the funding on is available on the website.

Swimming lessons are also provided as part of the National Curriculum. Children are taught to:

- swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- use a range of strokes effectively [for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke]
- perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

Religious Education

The school follows the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education recommended by Derbyshire LA. The syllabus is multi-faith and includes celebrations, symbols, journeys, special places, prayer and beliefs. All children are expected to participate in the lessons.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a statutory part of the school's curriculum. Children participate in a daily act of collective worship, whether as a class, year group or the whole school. We take part in 'Open the Book'.

Parents who wish to withdraw their child from subjects not included in the National Curriculum are asked to notify us in writing. Under these circumstances your child will be given supervised work to do in an area away from the activity in question.

RHE

At Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School, we want RHE to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy.

The school holds the Derbyshire Anti-Bullying Award of Excellence. We have also achieved a Healthy School Award. This recognises that we teach a balanced range of health topics including drugs awareness, healthy eating, food hygiene and healthy living.

Teaching about wellbeing is central to these subjects, especially as a children's happiness is a priority for all of us. The content will give them the knowledge and capability to take care of themselves and receive support if problems arise.

Curriculum Enrichment

During the school year we have 'Enrichment Days' where we concentrate on a particular area of study or a calendar event. Children are involved in various activities such as cooking, crafts, physical activities to explore the topic fully.
We believe that the valuable time we have in school must be used to the full, and that stimulating first-hand experience is vitally important for the children 's development. We undertake a variety of interesting visits; for example, to outdoor education centres, museums, theatres and to local features. We regularly invite visitors into the school to share experiences and expertise.

Progress, Records & Assessment

Individual children develop physically, mentally and emotionally at different rates. We believe we must help them to develop at their own rate and to enjoy their time in school. We must all realise that progress may vary through periods of steady development and sudden leaps and it is important for us all to support and to encourage them.

Every child's progress and achievement is monitored; individual records are kept and progress is recorded. Targets are set for individuals and for groups. Children are assessed shortly after they enter school and are formally assessed at the end of Key Stages 1 (5-7 years of age) and 2 (7-11). Through close monitoring we can rapidly identify any problems and take prompt appropriate action.

Parents Evenings are held twice a year when you can discuss your child's progress, but if you are worried about anything, the teachers will be pleased to make an appointment with you to discuss your concern.

National Curriculum Tests
National Curriculum tests take place in Year 2 and Year 6 with a phonics screening in Year 1 and a Baseline Assessment in Reception. We hold annual workshops for the appropriate age groups to inform parents about what the tests entail and how they can support their child as they prepare for them. There will be a small number of children who, for various reasons, do not participate in the official assessments. In these cases, we will provide teacher assessments. We also provide teacher assessment information in the school report annually. We are now requested to include aggregate results of National Curriculum tests in our prospectus. The results for 2023 may be found in Performance Data on the website.

INFORMATION

Laws, policies, plans or procedures cover virtually all aspects of the school. Details of all these are held in the School Office and are available for your inspection, usually by prior arrangement. Additional information is circulated to parents regularly throughout the year, as necessary. Information is also available on the website under 'Parent Info'. Information relating to GDPR is also available on the website.

Any questions, queries or comments should normally be directed to your child's class teacher in the first instance, or to the Headteacher.

We would be pleased to provide detailed information on aspects of school life or the curriculum. If your enquiry requires a detailed response, please make an appointment with the appropriate member of staff and provide an outline of your requirements at that time.

If you require any further details or wish to view relevant information, please call the School Office to arrange a suitably convenient time to discuss your requirements.

It is important that all the information available in school or circulated from school is accessible to you. That means that if English is not your first language or if your vision is impaired or if you have difficulties reading or completing forms then we will help you. Our help will be discreet and confidential. Please ask for help if you need it or tell us what your needs are.

If you think that school documents and communications are not equally accessible to everyone, then we need to know. Please contact Miss Kay with any concerns.

CHARGES FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The 1988 Education Reform Act states that "if an activity takes place in school time then the school should pay for it". However, the Authority has not, so far, given us any extra allowance for such activities.

Parents may feel able to pay all or part of the cost as a voluntary contribution. This will reduce the claim on school funds so that we can continue to offer a range of interesting and enjoyable outings. Please contact school if you have any concerns about making contributions.

No pupil will be excluded from the activity if parents choose NOT to contribute to the costs. However, if voluntary contributions are insufficient to cover most of the costs, the activity may have to be cancelled.

The School has adopted the Derbyshire County Council Policy on charging and the Governor Approved Document is available to view on the website.

We regularly need parents to help supervise activities and visits outside school. Without this support, many of these trips would not be possible. Please contact the office if you are able to offer your services in any area of school life.

Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School is financed by Derbyshire County Council Education Authority

The Headquarters of the Authority are in Matlock and enquiries should be addressed to:

Strategic Director
County Offices
Matlock
DE4 3AG
Telephone: 01629 580000

The Area Education Offices are in Buxton:

Area Education Offices
High Peak and Derbyshire Dales
Kents Bank Road
Buxton
SK17 9HJ
Telephone: 01629 533500

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Most matters causing concern can be dealt with informally by discussing them with your child's class teacher in the first instance and with the Headteacher when appropriate. If your concern is of a general nature then you may want to speak to one of the governors, or any staff member.

We respond to all complaints in accordance with procedures set out by the L.A. If the school cannot resolve the complaint, then those concerned can ask the L.A. to intervene. As a last resort, parents have the right to appeal to the Secretary of State for Education.

Procedures for more formal complaints are held in the School Office and are freely available upon request and without prejudice.

DATA PROTECTION

Basic information about pupils is held on our office computer to assist with the efficient organisation of the school and the children's educational needs. Security measures are taken to ensure that the information remains confidential and available to authorised staff only. It may be used for statistical purposes but this will not enable any individual to be identified. The school has registered with the Data Protection Registrar details of persons to whom they may wish to disclose information. By law (under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1984) information may only be disclosed to other persons in accordance with this registration. The school is registered to disclose personal information to: family, relatives, guardians/trustees, doctors, dentists, other health advisers, The Department for Education, the Local Authority and Social Services, when appropriate.

It is the policy of the Governors that such information is confidential. When a requirement to disclose information to a third party has been registered, it will only be divulged to the relevant authority. The school website holds further information on how the school meets the new requirements under GDPR.

TRANSFER TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

We work closely with other primary schools in the area and with all the schools to which the children will eventually move, to ensure a consistent and well-planned transfer to secondary education.

Children are offered the opportunity to start vising their chosen high school from year 5 onwards. We liaise closely with the secondary schools to make sure transition is as smooth as possible. They will have the confidence and skills necessary to make a smooth transition. They will have a good idea of what to expect when they go to their new school and will have made at least one visit and will have met some of their new teachers.

Your child's class teacher or Miss Kay will be more than happy to discuss the options and implications of secondary transfer with you.

The LA issues booklets to all Year 6 pupils and their families early in the Autumn Term.

TEACHING STAFF

Miss Suzanne Kay	Head Teacher
Mrs Liane Cioffi	Teacher
Mrs Gillian Guy	Teacher
Mrs Elin Cole	Teacher
Miss Louise Nicholls	Teacher
Mrs Katy Staples	Teacher
Miss Rose Heathcote	Teacher

NON-TEACHING STAFF

Mrs Tina Daniels	School Business Manager
Mrs Simone Pooley	Teaching Assistant/After School Club
Mrs Sarah O'Neill	Teaching Assistant/ Lunchtime Organiser
Miss Kayleigh Gill	Teaching Assistant/Lunchtime Organiser/Breakfast Club
Mrs Judy Gresty	Teaching Assistant/Lunchtime Organiser
Mrs Becci Hutchins	Teaching Assistant/Lunchtime Organiser/After School Club
Mr Paul Verdon	Site Manager (External)
Mrs Anne Owens	Crossing Patrol (DCC)
Mrs Amanda Doyle	Catering Supervisor (DCC)

PARENT TEACHERS FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (PTFA)

All parents with children in school are members of the P.T.F.A. The aims of the Association are:

- To encourage close links between home, school and community.
- To increase awareness of the activities of the school in the wider school community.
- To organise functions and fundraising events to encourage active participation of parents and friends in the social life of the school and to encourage local people to visit and to support the school.
- To raise money to support and extend school activities and enhance resources.

The PTFA organises the regular events held at school or in the community. Sale of raffle tickets provides a big boost to the success of events. The PTFA is often involved in sponsored events and organises social occasions. We also organise a Paper Caper – collecting newspaper, card and all types of paper throughout the local community. This raises significant and much-needed extra funds for school but requires the help and support of committed and enthusiastic parents, staff and friends.

All events require planning and organising and all offers of help are warmly welcomed. We are always looking for new fundraising ideas. Please become actively involved in the P.T.F.A.

BEFORE & AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

We run a Before School Club, which starts at 7:45am until the school day begins each morning. In addition, we also run an After School club, from 3.20pm to 5.00pm.

Charges are published in Newsletters, on the website or from the office. Bookings are to be made and paid for on your ParentPay account.

Governing Board

As mentioned earlier, the Governing Board works quietly in the background, making sure policies and procedures are in place so that the school runs smoothly and effectively. The Governors recognise the importance of working with parents - your comments, suggestions and views of the school and how it works are welcomed.

This is our current list of governors. Please go to the school website if you would like any further information.

FURNESS VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL - GOVERNORS 2025/2026			
PARENT GOVERNORS total required : minimum of 2 Quorate: 4			
NAME	**ADDRESS**	**START/END**	**COMM / Linked Gov**
Miss Hannah Pike **CHAIR**	volunteered	23.03.2021 23.03.2025 23.03.2029	**Curriculum & Policies** **Safeguarding** **Finance & Personnel** *History / RE / Art Link*
Mr Chris Ward **VICE CHAIR**	volunteered	23.03.2021 23.03.2025 23.03.2029	**Curriculum & Policies** **Finance & Personnel** *Science / Health & Safety Link*
Daniel Ashton	volunteered	28/09/2026 28/09/2030	

Miss Kayleigh Gill	volunteered	01.06.2023 01.06.2027	**Curriculums & Policies** **Safeguarding**
Mrs Lorna Forshaw	volunteered	23.03.2021 23.03.2025 23.03.2029	**Safeguarding** *Safeguarding ND Online Safety Link*
Mrs Samantha Hancock	volunteered	01.09.2022 01.09.2026	***Curriculums & Policies*** *Literacy Link*
Mrs Charlotte Betton	volunteered	23.03.2021 23.03.2025 23.03.2029	**Finance & Personnel** **Safeguarding** *EYFS Link*
Mrs Hannah Clarkson	volunteered	01.09.2022 01.09.2026	**Finance & Personnel** Finance Governor *Pupil Premium Link* *Maths Link* *SEN*
LEA GOVERNOR			
Dawn Edwards	DCC	19.03.2026 19.03.2030	**Finance & Personnel** **Curriculum & Policies** **Safeguarding**
STAFF GOVERNORS			
Miss Suzanne Kay Headteacher		01.09.2021	**Finance & Personnel** **Curriculum & Policies** **Safeguarding**
Miss Louise Nicholls		01.01.2022 01.01.2025 01.01.2029	**Finance & Personnel** **Curriculum & Policies** **Safeguarding**
ASSOCIATE GOVERNOR			
Mrs Tina Daniels			
CLERK			
Mrs Toni Kania		01.03.2019	

We hope that the prospectus has answered many of your questions and given you a flavour of life at Furness Vale. You are more than welcome to visit the school and If you have any other queries, please don't hesitate to contact us. We will do all we can to assist you.