

# Parent Handbook



# Ta fait erriu gys Scoill Yn Dhoon Welcome to Dhoon School

*'Dhoon School is a creative, innovative and dynamic learning community, built upon traditional values and strong community links; where everyone is encouraged, empowered and inspired to be happy and successful, to seek improvement and to strive for excellence.'*

Dhoon School is a happy, inclusive and successful school, where every child is valued, nurtured and enabled to flourish in a positive and safe environment.

We believe that all of our pupils are entitled to the very best education we can provide and offer a creative and innovative curriculum, consistently delivering high quality learning opportunities using a variety of approaches designed to engage, enthuse and inspire. We have high expectations, strive for excellent pupil outcomes, and our talented staff team are steadfastly committed to providing a rich, varied and exciting curriculum, at the heart of which lies a firm belief in promoting the values, dispositions and skills that children need to become lifelong learners.

We pride ourselves on working in partnership with our children, their families and the wider school community to help our pupils to achieve the highest possible outcomes and are proud of our strong community involvement and positive relationships.

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



**MAXIM KELLY**  
Executive Headteacher



**SARAH SHIMMIN**  
Head of School

# A Little Bit About Us

Situated in Glen Mona, Maughold, Dhoon School provides high quality education for children from Reception through to Year 6 (ages 4 -11). Forming part of a Federation with Laxey School, just a short drive away along the coast, the overall responsibility for both schools lies with the Executive Headteacher, Maxim Kelly, and the day to day organisation of Dhoon School is overseen by Sarah Shimmin, Head of School.

Steeped in history, the original part of our building dates back to 1876, whilst an expansion in 2003 provided a four block classroom teaching area with two activity areas, a multi-purpose hall, changing rooms and kitchen. We also benefit from a dedicated playing field, a substantial enclosed playground, a canopied outdoor learning area and two outdoor learning cabins. Both indoor and outdoor, our learning environments are stimulating, purposeful and vibrant, reflecting our high standards.



# Your child's journey with us

## THE DHOON HIGH FIVE

At Dhoon School we are committed to helping our children become curious, lifelong learners and use our 'Dhoon High Five' to promote the attitudes, skills and dispositions we believe are important for success in this. The 'High Five' are a set of qualities that we develop in all of our pupils that we know will serve them well on their learning journeys and into the future. Each Friday we host a 'High Five Assembly', a celebration of the week's learning, and certificates are presented to children who have consistently demonstrated a particular disposition(s) over the course of the week. We are sure that you will become familiar with the language of our 'High Five' during your child's time with us!



## THE DHOON VALUES

Dhoon is a school built upon traditional values and we actively encourage and promote our own set of values (personal qualities) which underpin all aspects of school life. We are proud of our pupils and encourage them to see our values as mottos for life, guiding them to become responsible members of the community.

Our curriculum is flexible and is responsive to the needs of our children. Underpinned by our 'Curriculum Drivers', we provide a rich, varied and exciting curriculum, celebrating our unique local context as well as making wider world links, and the range of activities provided throughout the school enables our children to make real connections across all of their learning. 'Learning to Learn' is an important part of our approach and we support our children to understand how they learn best, to reflect on their progress and identify their next steps.

# Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception)

Dhoon School is proud to hold the 'Manx Step into Quality Award'. This award is recognition of the excellence in our early years provision and is testament to the quality of teaching and learning in our 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:

- Fun, child-centred activities allowing children to progress comfortably at their own pace
- High quality teaching and learning experiences that promote curiosity and creativity
- A learning environment rich in language and colour
- Lots of opportunities for carefully planned practical activities
- Making use of our superb outdoor learning facilities
- Enabling children to foster positive relationships with their peers, staff and the wider school community
- Happy, contented, confident children!



# Key Stage 1 (Year One and Year Two)

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 toward learning, making it fun, exciting and enjoyable and specific focus is given to phonics, reading, literacy and mathematics skills.



## KEY FEATURES:

- A vibrant, stimulating and language rich learning environment
- 'Curiosity hooks' to engage and inspire
- Opportunities to learn through exploration, play and investigation
- Quality time to build on knowledge through practical, interactive tasks
- Daily Maths and Phonics sessions
- Small group and whole class work
- Individual and Guided Reading sessions to develop skills and promote a love of reading using a multi sensory approach
- Thematic approach to help children make links in their learning
- Celebration of our culture, language and heritage
- Learning about the 'Wider World'
- Development of a 'Growth Mindset' within a safe to fail environment
- Keeping ourselves active and healthy
- Learning takes determination but is fun and rewarding!

# Key Stage 2 (Years Three, Four, Five and Six)

Throughout Key Stage Two we continue to provide a broad and balanced curriculum through our thematic approach, with regular, exciting opportunities for children to steer their own learning - 'Learning on Demand'. Carefully planned, quality teaching and learning activities promote a love of learning, celebrate high expectations and spark curiosity, creativity and determination.



## KEY FEATURES:

- 'Curiosity hooks' to engage and inspire
  - Vibrant, stimulating learning environments
  - Development of a 'Growth Mindset' with opportunities for children to direct their own learning, set themselves goals, fail well and challenge themselves
  - Teacher, self and peer-assessment
  - Daily phonics, spelling and handwriting sessions
  - Individual and Guided Reading sessions to develop skills and promote a love of reading
  - Development of writing composition strategies through modelling and supported practice
- 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
  - Challenge based learning
  - Celebration of our culture, language and heritage
  - Global Learning
  - Keeping ourselves active and healthy
  - Learning takes determination but is fun and rewarding!

# Enrichment

We provide a wide variety of enrichment activities and frequent 'real life' experiences provide a rich context for learning at Dhoon. We celebrate our Manx Heritage through our bespoke 'Manx Curriculum' and many of our school music making activities reflect and celebrate our local culture and traditions. Music is a key feature of life at Dhoon, the corridors come alive at break times and lunchtimes and we have a variety of music-making groups as well as a successful choir. Our pupils enjoy participating in a full range of sporting activities and relish the opportunity to represent their school. Learning outside the classroom takes on many forms and this has even extended to whole school off-Island trips to the World Museum in Liverpool to see the Terracotta Army Exhibition and to Chester Zoo!



# Inclusion at Dhoon



Inclusive practice is a key feature at Dhoon School and we are proud to hold the Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship Status for this. Every child and adult who learns and works in our school is valued and their educational and personal needs are catered for. Individual needs are carefully considered and any barriers to learning, be they academic, social or emotional are broken down. Inclusion at Dhoon is also about our families and the wider community; everybody's voice is heard, encouraged and valued and strong relationships and commitment are paramount to our success in this.



# Pupil Voice



At Dhoon School every child has a voice and knows that their views are respected and valued by their peers and staff alike. We are delighted to hold 'Investing in Children' status, recognising the children's roles within the school in discussing issues, developing arguments and making informed decisions. We have a well established and very successful School

Council, with representatives from Year 2 - Year 6 undertaking specific roles throughout the academic year and providing a children's viewpoint on all aspects of school life.

# Safeguarding

At Dhoon School we provide a caring, safe and nurturing environment for all of our pupils and develop their social, physical and mental health in a safe and supportive way.

Our Designate Safeguarding Lead is:

**SARAH SHIMMIN**

*(A complete version of our Safeguarding Policy can be found on our website.)*



# Lunchtime

At Dhoon School, hot, healthy lunches can be provided and payment for these can be made via Parent Pay. A copy of the school dinner menu is always displayed on the parents' noticeboards. If you prefer, your child can bring a packed lunch in a suitable lunch box which should be clearly named. The lunchbox should not contain any glass items or fizzy drinks, please. We aim for Dhoon School to be a healthy school.

During the lunchtime break, supervision is provided by lunchtime ancillary staff, who support the children in the dining rooms and the playgrounds until the start of afternoon school. On wet days children are supervised in their classrooms during lunch break, once they have finished eating in the hall.



# School Times

9.00 a.m.	School Starts (A member of staff will be on duty on the playground from 8.50 a.m.)
10.45 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	Playtime
12.00 p.m. - 1.15 p.m.	Lunchtime for Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1
12.15 p.m. - 1.15 p.m.	Lunchtime for Key Stage 2
1.15 p.m.	Afternoon sessions begin
2.15 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.	Playtime
3.25 p.m.	Hometime



## Snacks and Drinks

Children are welcome to bring in a healthy snack to eat at play times. We encourage the children to drink water as sugary juice can cause tooth decay. Please provide your child with a named water bottle which they can refill whenever they need to. We have refillable water bottles for sale at the school office.

## School Uniform

Our pupils wear uniform from Reception through to Year 6.

Jade school sweatshirts, featuring the school logo, should be worn over white or jade polo shirts. They are worn with grey school trousers or shorts and black/dark shoes. In the summer, girls may wear green or blue checked cotton dresses.

We are aware that from time to time and for different reasons (a tear in the trousers, a hole in the shoe etc) it is not possible for the correct school uniform to be worn. In these circumstances, it would be appreciated if you could send a note of explanation. We are proud of our school identity, and the uniform plays a large part in that.

Our sweatshirts are available to buy from The Promenade T-Shirt Shop in Douglas.



## PE kit

All of the children require shorts, t-shirt and pumps for inside activities. Children are welcome to bring tracksuit or jogging trousers and sweatshirt and trainers for outdoor activities, particularly during the colder months.

### **FINALLY.....**

We hope that you have found the information in this handbook useful and informative, please do get in touch if you have any further questions or if there is anything we can help you with. You can contact us at:

**[dhoonenquiries@sch.im](mailto:dhoonenquiries@sch.im)**

We look forward to welcoming your family to Dhoon School soon!



[www.facebook.com/@DhoonSchool](http://www.facebook.com/@DhoonSchool)



[www.twitter.com/@DhoonSchool](http://www.twitter.com/@DhoonSchool)

## **DHOON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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