



Useful Information

School Website

Our school website www.deanvalley.cheshire.sch.uk is a useful source of information, including school policies, school holidays and diary dates, newsletters, latest Ofsted report and a virtual school tour.

Personal, Social and Health Education

Personal, Social and Health Education is about the promotion of a healthy life-style to encourage a more positive and happy way of life. It is aimed at self awareness and self-respect and includes citizenship. The school has achieved the National Healthy Schools Award, liaises closely with the school nurse and Cheshire East's Health Education Team. This enhances our Health Education Programme and links many elements to both National Curriculum and other outside agencies.

We are also AcSEED accredited. AcSEED promotes adoption of best practices in supporting the emotional wellbeing and mental health of young people in UK schools and colleges and provides recognition for organisations that satisfy the AcSEED criteria for wellbeing support. The AcSEED assessment team were particularly impressed by the strong wellbeing ethos here at Dean Valley. Mental health is a state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community. (World Health Organization)

At our school, we aim to promote positive mental health for every member of our staff and student body. We pursue this aim using both universal, whole school approaches and specialised, targeted approaches aimed at vulnerable students.

In addition to promoting positive mental health, we aim to recognise and respond to mental ill health. In an average classroom, three children will be suffering from a diagnosable mental health issue. By developing and implementing practical, relevant and effective mental health policies and procedures we can promote a safe and stable environment for students affected both directly and indirectly by mental ill health.

Sex and Relationship Education

This is included as part of health and hygiene for older children, and is dealt with in a natural and sensitive manner. Parents of these children are informed when specific topics are being covered.

Additionally, science and environmental studies cover aspects of sex education at an appropriate level of understanding and maturity throughout the school. The RSE Policy can be seen on the school website.

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Useful information continued

Safeguarding

Aspects of child protection and safety are also taught through different curriculum areas. The emphasis will always be on learning how to 'Keep Safe' and being aware of how to say 'No' in different and threatening circumstances. Road Safety, Stranger Danger and Bullying are all important issues to be covered at regular intervals throughout school life. Day-to-day contact with children means that schools are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes of behaviour or failure to develop. Parents should be aware, therefore, that the school, as part of the Cheshire East Child Protection procedures, is required to report any concerns to the Social Services Department.

First Aid

Most staff are qualified in Emergency First Aid, in addition; three members of staff are fully qualified First Aiders. Qualifications are updated regularly. In the event of an accident, the Headteacher/Assistant Headteacher is always told, parents are advised immediately if deemed necessary and it is recorded on the Cheshire East Accident Reporting System. Further advice/treatment, if required is available from the Medical Centre.

Children with Special Needs

There are three groups of children for whom special provision may be necessary in order that they reach their full potential in academic, social and emotional development.

They are:

- Those with chronic medical conditions
- Those who are above average ability, who need challenging programmes of work
- Those who have learning difficulties, who require more specifically planned learning activities

The School follows the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs. Close observation and assessment of children enables individual programmes to be established in order to meet their needs, and support and advice from other professional services may be sought. Weekly support and extra help is provided for children who are experiencing difficulties. Appropriate assessments take place and specific teaching programmes are then followed in order to address the children's needs. Close liaison with class teachers and parents aids the efficiency of this aspect of our provision.

At Dean Valley we are aware of the potential of our pupils and we are constantly up-dating our resources and curriculum in order to meet the needs and stimulate our more able children.



Useful information continued

Homework

Homework is set for a variety of reasons, and from your child's early days at our school he/she will bring home books to share. This will develop into the child being able to read independently and with a greater degree of understanding. For the youngest children, support in learning to read is the top priority, but as the children get older they will be given additional tasks which may include:

- Spellings through Spelling Shed.
- TT Rockstars (Timestables)
- Numbots
- A literacy/maths task
- Research for topic work etc
- Reinforcement of concepts taught in school
- Fun practical tasks and are encouraged to read

KS2 pupils have reading journals regularly. KS1 pupils bring home reading diaries in which you are encouraged to comment. Sometimes older children request extra work to be done at home for their own interest or extra reinforcement—this positive approach to work, and self motivation is encouraged by the staff. Sharing these experiences with your child in a relaxed manner gives you greater insight into the education process and provides invaluable encouragement for your child. Our website offers support for further learning.

Parental Involvement

We are very grateful to the parents who come into school to help and give us their support in many different ways. Their assistance in the classroom or at special events is invaluable, and parents, friends and relatives are always welcome. Two parents evenings are arranged during each academic year, the first one takes the guise of an information evening where class teachers are able to share the aims and expectations of the year, curriculum information and to share books. The second one parents are invited to discuss their child's progress with the class teachers and a full written report is received at the end of the academic year. Parents are also invited to concerts and special assemblies during the year.

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Useful information continued

School Meals

Meals are freshly cooked each day on the school premises by our in-house catering team, who are always happy to discuss any dietary requirements or concerns. Parents select meal choices in advance via the Arbor app (at least two weeks prior), and these choices are reconfirmed by pupils during morning registration. This ensures every child receives a freshly prepared meal of their choice each day.

Please note: if meal choices are not made before the start of the week, we are unable to guarantee that your child will receive their first choice on the day.

Government funding for Universal Free School Meals means that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for free school meals. For KS2 children, payment for school lunches is made via the Arbor app. The cost per day is £2.85.

A copy of the menu is available on the school website. The menu changes three times a year and is created with input from the children.

Alternatively, pupils may bring a packed lunch from home. Packed lunches should be in a named, appropriate lunch box. We ask that no nuts or peanut-butter products are included, as these can pose a serious risk to pupils with nut allergies. Drinks should be in named plastic containers—no glass please.

Families may choose school meals or packed lunches on any day of the week, and no notice is required if you wish to change between the two.

The school hall is used as the dining area at lunchtime and is supervised by mid-day assistants, with either the Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher also on duty.

In addition to freshly cooked meals, a hot-bag service is offered during the summer months, weather permitting, allowing children to choose from an additional menu and enjoy eating outside.

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Useful information continued

Times of School Day

Key Stage 1 (Infants): Reception, Years 1 and 2

Key Stage 2 (Juniors): Year 3,4,5 and 6

MORNING: 8.50am—12 noon (KS1), 8.50am—12.15pm (KS2)

AFTERNOON: 1.15pm—3.20pm

BREAK: 10.45am—11:00am

At the start of the day, children should line up in class order on the rear playground, once the school bell has been rung at 8:50am.

It is important to note that on the grounds of safety and insurance, children should not arrive at school before 8.45am except by prior arrangement with the Headteacher.

The pupils are allowed to enter school five minutes before the beginning of the morning/afternoon sessions in order to make a prompt start to registration and lessons.

No child is allowed to leave school before the end of a session unless a WRITTEN request is received from the parents.

The school is required by law to be open for 190 days a year (380 sessions). Please check the school website for the current holiday list (please note other websites purporting to list the school's holiday dates are not always accurate).

Registration

The register is taken twice daily, at the beginning of the morning and afternoon sessions. This is a legal obligation, and late arrivals have to be recorded. Late arrivals should enter through the main entrance and be signed in. This is for Health & Safety and official reasons.

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Useful information continued

Absence

In the event of illness, parents are asked to contact the school on the first day of absence. Contact can be via telephone (select option 1) or through the Arbor app.

Medicines

It is sometimes necessary for children to be administered medicines in school, e.g. for chronic illnesses (e.g. Asthma), or when fit to return but still on medication (e.g. cough medicine or antibiotics). School can administer medication provided the medication is clearly named and sent with a written instruction of dosage and time to be taken, signed/authorised by the parent/guardian. Forms for regular dosage of medicine may be obtained from the school office.

When medicine is used in school for illnesses such as Asthma, it is the parents responsibility to ensure this in in date,

Medical Appointments

It is sometimes necessary for children to visit the doctor or dentist during school hours. If you have an appointment that means collecting a child once the school is in session, please will you ALWAYS collect the child from the school office, for security reasons. We do not allow children to leave school unaccompanied. It is most helpful to let the school office know IN ADVANCE, indicating when the child will be collected and by whom.

Collection of a Child

Please notify school using the admin@deanvalley.cheshire.sch.uk email or by letting the class teacher now of any change to the collection of your child. Children are not allowed out of school until the appropriate adult appears to collect them or school is informed that your child is walking home (Y5/6). Please notify us if there is to be change in the usual routine.

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Useful information continued

Morning Playtime Snack

The School Cook provides a morning snack consisting of fruit and wholemeal toast with milk or water,. The cost of this is kept to a minimum, but may vary from time to time.

Snack is currently 30p per day, paid in advance to ensure your child goes on the snack list. Payment is via school shop in Arbor.

In order to promote healthy eating habits, if children bring in their own snack from home this must be fruit only. No cereal bars/nuts/crisps/sweets or chocolate are to be brought into school. Water can be brought into school in a named bottle. The School is part of the National Fruit Scheme and all KS1 pupils receive a free piece of fruit during afternoon break time.

Behaviour Management/Social Skills

Caring, for each other and our school, is central to our philosophy, and contributes positively to the happy atmosphere and smooth running of the school. The welfare of the children in our care is paramount to our work, and communication amongst staff, pupils, parents and governors is open. All parties have the children's interests at heart. Pupils are supervised at all times:

During playtimes:	by members of staff on duty
During wet playtimes:	by staff on duty
During lunchtimes:	by midday staff

All the children use the extensive playground together at playtime, and the large playing field and environmental area during fair weather. The playground is marked with interesting and child-centred activities which encourages the children to be imaginative and play well.

All the children in the school have been involved in drawing-up the School Charter of expected behaviour, and each class has a class charter to follow, this is written by the Class in September. These are reviewed and reinforced regularly by the children. The school has developed a behaviour policy which can be on line.

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Useful information continued

Behaviour Management/Social Skills continued

The emphasis of the policy is on caring and positive encouragement, and we praise the children whenever possible.

Recognition of good behaviour and good work is given during the normal course of the day and also at the whole school assemblies; certificates are awarded (Child of the Week, Rights Respecting), giving the children a sense of achievement and building their confidence. The children's attention is regularly drawn to the School Charter and ethos of the Rights Respecting school focus and a consistent approach is adhered to. The importance of maintaining a good standard of behaviour for the benefit of all in the school is the principle that is constantly reinforced.

Occasionally, it is necessary to use consequences for children who have deliberately broken the rules or caused unpleasantness in school or in the playground. Unless the matter is particularly serious, a verbal warning is sufficient. Serious incidents are recorded and parents are informed.

Alternatively children may:

- Miss playtime

- Be sent to work outside the Headteacher's room or in another classroom.

- Be sent to explain their behaviour to the Headteacher/ Assistant Headteacher (who keeps a record of such incidents and informs parents of serious or frequent misbehaviour)

- Be temporarily or permanently excluded from school for serious breaches of the school rules

Complaints Procedure

Parents are welcome to discuss informally any problems concerning the school curriculum or related matters with the class teacher or Headteacher. An appointment should be made so that staff can be available after/before school.

The school's complaints policy is on the school website.

If there are concerns or complaints which cannot be resolved in this way, a full investigation will be carried out and the governing body can be contacted.

If these investigations fail to resolve the matter, it will be referred to the LA.

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