



STRATHMARTINE PRIMARY SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2024

**This document is available in alternative formats, on request
(Please contact the school office)**

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Mrs Sandra Hood
Head Teacher
Strathmartine Primary School,
Craigmill Road, Bridgefoot DD3 0PH
T: 01382 768130
strathmartine@angusschools.org.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your family to Strathmartine Primary School.

At Strathmartine we aim to create a happy, safe and caring environment throughout the school, while providing the best possible learning experiences and opportunities for all of our children. Due to our superb rural location, we are also ideally placed to deliver quality outdoor learning.

We fully recognise the importance of developing a strong partnership where home and school work together in order for children to receive the best from their education. Working together, we aim to develop skills which will equip children to learn and achieve throughout school life and beyond. With this in mind, we welcome and appreciate your support and involvement in all aspects of school life.

I hope you will find the information contained in this handbook helpful and informative. If you require further information about the school or wish to visit, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I hope your involvement with Strathmartine Primary School will be a very enjoyable experience. We look forward to working with you and your family.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sandra Hood
Head Teacher

CONTACT DETAILS

School Name Strathmartine Primary School
Address Craigmill Road, Bridgefoot, Angus DD3 0PH
Telephone Number 01382 768130
Website
Email Address strathmartine@angusschools.org.uk
Head Teacher's name Mrs Sandra Hood
Principal Teacher Mr Chris Bennett
School Staff Mrs B Dean (P1-3)
Mrs D Duncan (P4-7), Mr C Bennett (P4-7 Friday)
Miss N Black – Senior Early Years Practitioner
Mrs P Christie – Early Years Practitioner
Mrs A Johnston – Early Years Assistant (acting)
Mrs A Dowie – SPSA (School Pupil Support Assistant)
Mrs S Cordell – School Clerical
Miss S Cassells – School Catering Assistant
Mr N Birmingham - School Janitor
Mrs L Paterson – School Cleaner

Class Stages P1-3, P4-7

Present Roll 47

Denominational Status (if any) Non Denominational

Does the school teach by means of the Gaelic Language

Email address and website (if any) for the Parent Council (or any other parent organisation)

Start of School Day 9.00am
Morning Interval 10.30am – 10.50pm
Lunch Break 12.30pm – 1.30pm
Afternoon Session 1.30pm – 3.20pm
Nursery Class 9.00am – 3.00pm

VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

[Choosing a school: a guide for parents \(Scottish Government\)](#)

Once your child has been allocated a place we will invite you to meet the staff and children, find out more about the curriculum and share information about your child.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform is available from the School Wear Shop, 1-3 Meadowside, Dundee. Tartan ties are available from the school office.

- **BOYS** Blue School Sweatshirt/hoodie and white shirt, Blue jumper with shirt and Tartan tie, black or grey trousers
- **GIRLS** Blue School Sweatshirt/hoodie and white shirt or blue cardigan/jumper with shirt and Tartan school tie. Black or grey skirt or Tartan skirt, kilt or pinafore or black or grey trousers.
- **PE KIT** Plain shorts, plain shorts, plain tee shirt and gym shoes in a gym bag
- T-shirt and gym shoes in a bag with pupil's name

All clothing brought to school should be named or marked in some way. It is difficult for children to distinguish their clothing from others.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

Contact the school immediately if you have a concern. We want to deal with all matters as early as possible. Contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. If you would prefer to discuss the issue with a member of the management team contact:

- **Mrs Hood – Headteacher**
- **Mr Bennett – Principal Teacher**

The staff will listen to your concern and agree a way forward with you. They will follow-up with a telephone call approximately one week later. This is to ensure all matters have been resolved.

THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

[Angus Council complaints procedure](#)

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

BECOMING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL

We value the important part parents/carers play in their children's education. We see partnership with parents as way to enhance children's achievements and promote better school ethos and communication.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement:

During the school day:

- **Art/Craft activities**

- Sharing knowledge and expertise in some aspect of the curriculum, e.g. topic talk, history, science, health
- Practical activities in science, maths, social subjects, health education (e.g. first aid) or technology
- Reading stories to groups of children, playing reading/phonics games
- Supporting events such as the Community Cafe
- Golden Time activities e.g. board games, art and craft in small groups
- Running or assisting to run a Lunch Club or After School Club
- Supporting educational visits/trips
- School concerts – making costumes, props, supervision of children
- Road safety – Cycle Training
- Supporting Pupil Leadership Groups (every Thursday)

Outwith the school day:

- Fundraising events
- Trips e.g. sporting events, concerts
- Extra-curricular activities e.g. coaching, sports/art clubs/country dancing/school grounds – maintenance of garden/allotment areas
- Parent Council

If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks have to be completed. Please discuss this with staff.

Parents are invited to attend a Parents Evening during the school year. There you will meet your child's class teacher for a ten minute interview and hear about your child's progress. It's also an opportunity to hear how you can best support your child's learning.

We would encourage you to look at your child's learning profile on Seesaw (or Learning Journal in nursery) with them on a regular basis.

Support as appropriate the completion of homework as advised by the school.

Teachers and nursery staff will share planned learning with you each term. The Head Teacher will share regular newsletters with you which will contain school information.

SCHOOL ETHOS

The current school values are Safe, Ready, Resilient. These are currently being reviewed.

We are committed to developing pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural values. We do this through the ethos and the curriculum. We do this in partnership with parents and take account of the needs of pupils and the views of parents.

We welcome and encourage diversity and individuality, while emphasizing our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, respect for others and compassion and justice. All who are involved in the life of our school have the right to be respected as individuals and carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner towards others. We implement council policy on equal opportunities and racial equality. All pupils have access to the full range of educational experiences available within the

resources of the school. We are committed to eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability.

Currently our school does not have any direct partnerships with any religious bodies.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS

Strathmartine strives to be an integral part of the community Strathmartine, Bridgefoot and surrounding areas. Children develop skills and learn to be better citizens as they engage with and support the work of the local community. Our pupils participate in community events and competitions organised by Angus Alive and Forfar Rotary Club.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

[Angus Council anti-bullying policy](#)

Good behaviour is essential to good learning. The general aim of the school is to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect and collective responsibility. Pupils, parents and staff all have an important part to play in this. The rules of the school are of a common sense nature, bearing in mind the interest and safety of all concerned.

The current School Improvement Plan has identified the need for a review of the school relationship/behaviour policy. Staff are actively working on creating this, based upon the key messages from Paul Dix (www.pauldix.org) For instance, Praise in Public, Reprimand in Private. As part of this, a whole school House system has been introduced with termly rewards. The four houses are Falcon, Eagle, Osprey, and Hawk.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Children work hardest when they know their work will be appreciated and praised. Staff encourage pupils at all times and in all activities to give their best. Their effort may be rewarded verbally by praise, or non-verbally by a smiley face or sticker.

The whole school celebrates achievement on a weekly basis by the giving of certificates to reward pupils for good work, effort or kindness. Awards are given on Thursdays at assembly.

We welcome contributions from home via children bringing in certificates, medals etc to assembly and sharing experiences from home on Seesaw (Learning Journals in nursery).

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities include:

- P7 Sport club (Monday lunchtimes)
- Dance club (Mondays 3.20 – 4.15pm)
- Board games/Lego/Chess club (Wednesdays 3.20 – 4.15pm)
- Skillz Academy* (games) (Thursdays 3.30 – 4.30pm)

The above opportunities will be shared with your child during an assembly. If they are interested they should ask for an online form from the school office. The form should be completed by a responsible adult in the family home.

*Please note that there is a charge for Skillz Academy. Support with this is available,

please contact the Head Teacher (this is treated confidentially).

PUPIL LEADERSHIP GROUPS

We have 4 Pupil Leadership Groups that meet every Thursday. All P1-7 pupils are part of a group. These are:-

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)
- Eco
- Charity/Childrens' Rights
- Digital Learning

These groups are an opportunity for children to participate in the life of the school, have their views heard and create real change across the school.

Older pupils have the opportunity to be a chairperson or secretary. We greatly appreciate parental support in facilitating these groups.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Your child will learn in a variety of different contexts and groups including ability, co-operative and social.

THE PUPILS AND PARENTS VOICE

Personalisation and choice is one of the seven principles of curriculum design. Children and young people throughout their education will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children at the beginning of a new topic. Together they plan the areas of specific focus e.g. World War 2 – The Battle of Britain. This will be shared with parents through Seesaw and/or termly planned learning updates from staff. Parents will be invited to support the learning by sharing resources from home e.g. ration book or visiting the school to share a talk. Feedback is encouraged at any time through Seesaw.

THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

There are links to national information at www.angus.gov.uk/linksforparents.

Strathmartine has now begun a review of Curriculum. Parents have been invited to share what they feel is important for their children to learn and experience during their years at school.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

In Scotland all three and four year olds, and some two year olds, are eligible for up to 1,140 hours a year of funded early learning and childcare (ELC). Our ELC class offers sessions between 9am – 3pm, 5 days a week, over school term time. Other attendance patterns are available in other Angus Council settings

and in our wide range of partner nurseries, playgroups and childminders. To find out more about the benefits of ELC and the options available, visit our dedicated ELC web pages at www.angus.gov.uk/earlyyears.

Strathmartine Primary has a strong belief in a play pedagogy in the Early Years.

LIAISON WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL

The school maintains close links with Forfar Academy (01307 492200) and other Primary Schools within the local area such as Baldragon Secondary School. Our teachers and in some cases our pupils visit other schools and establishments and other teachers and pupils visit us. This process is necessary for the professional development of staff, reciprocal understanding and the establishment of curricular consistency.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (School Specific)

The school is currently banding the school library books to ensure pupils select the correct level of book when reading for enjoyment. The school engages in National Standard Assessment at P1, P4 and P7, as well as 'Inca' assessments to monitor progress along with teacher judgement. The teacher and management team meet 2-3 times a year to review progress and plan any interventions for pupils that would benefit from increased support or challenge.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The School Improvement Plan for 2024 is titled 'School Culture and Ethos' with a particular focus on

- Children's transitions
- Partnerships
- Ethos – relationship policy
- Wider achievement
- Pupil voice

HEALTH CARE

You can contact your school health staff at: -

Anne McLachlan, School Nurse Team, Whitehills Community Care Centre DD8 3DY

DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

We understand walking your child(ren) to and from school/nursery is an ideal opportunity to walk dogs. However, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, families, staff and community is paramount. Also, some children feel intimidated or unsure of dogs.

So, please ensure dogs (except for assistance dogs) are not brought into school grounds (you can wait with your dog outside the gate or in the car park area if it safe to do so).

And if you are walking your dog to and from school, please remain at a reasonable distance from the school gate.

This will enable children and adults to enter and exit safely.

We'd ask you to pass this information on to other adults who bring and/or collect your child(ren) from school.

Child Protection Coordinator

If we think a child has come to harm as a consequence of possible abuse, we need to report it.

At least one member of staff in each school is responsible for child protection matters. They will have had special training in this area.

In our school the Child Protection Coordinator(s) are: Sandra Hood (HT), Chris Bennett (PT)

If you want to know more about child protection and the safety of children, contact the school. There is also information about child protection on the Angus Council website.

As a school we have good contacts with health professionals, social workers and the police. Any or all of them may offer support, or become involved, if concerns of abuse arise.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Angus Council
Angus House
Orchardbank Business Park
FORFAR
DD8 1AN
Tel: 03452 777 778
Email: ACCESSSchoolsLearnBSU@angus.gov.uk

ANGUS COUNCIL WEBSITE

Visit angus.gov.uk/schools for information that applies to schools across Angus on topics including:

- holidays
- meals
- school payments
- attendance and absence
- assessment and reporting
- transport
- drugs education
- religious and moral education
- transitions
- ...and more

OTHER WEBSITES

Find useful links to other websites at angus.gov.uk/linksforparents

angus.gov.uk/schools and [young people/free school meals and school clothing grants](https://angus.gov.uk/young-people/free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants)