

*Recognised as an
Outstandingly Successful School*

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Ofsted

*Marine Park First School
Park Road
Whitley Bay
NE26 1LT*

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1. OUR SCHOOL

1.1 From the Headteacher, Mrs Vera A H Murphy

This brochure is provided to help you to understand the aims, philosophy and organization of Marine Park First School. However, it cannot replace a visit to our school to see us at work.

Marine Park is the established Whitley Bay school with a long tradition and reputation for high standards in education. The school moved into new premises in February 2004. Children learn most successfully when involved in their own discoveries and by interaction with the world around them; it is our aim to provide a colourful and stimulating environment in which these processes can flourish, developing at the same time, an atmosphere of mutual respect and co-operation.

The work undertaken obviously becomes progressively more demanding as the children develop. The need for continuity between the ages and stages of education, demands accurate teacher assessment and planning, both of which are essential to progress through the National Curriculum in every subject. Within this framework, each child is encouraged to develop at its own rate and to develop its full potential. It is vitally important that each child achieves some success according to its interests and aptitudes.

Marine Park First School children are encouraged to work and play together in such a way as to learn to care for each other and to develop an understanding of one another and a respect for people, which will help the day to day moral development of our school and the community we serve. We hope that, with guidance and encouragement, our children will grow into confident and socially well-adjusted individuals, well prepared for the next phase of education.

The contribution that a close partnership between home and school brings to a child's education is valued highly. It is therefore our wish that parents become actively involved in their children's learning, by working in school in a variety of ways whenever possible.

We hope that parents will feel encouraged to visit us at any time. All the staff will be pleased to give assistance and guidance when needed. Through our joint efforts, we intend that your child should enjoy a happy and successful life in our school.

1.2 From the Chair of Governors, Mr Paul Stephenson

Marine Park First School has recently moved into a new building fit for the 21st Century. This enables us to build on the school's long history of providing education of the highest standard and quality.

Our School has an exemplary record of achievement both in the academic and sporting arenas. Children are at the centre of the school's ethos.

The Governing Body is firmly committed to the school's vision to ensure each child receives the level of attention that they deserve to develop their knowledge, skills and abilities.

The school is a recognized training school; this allows us to share our high quality standards with the educators of tomorrow.

The atmosphere in the school is deliberately welcoming and the children are encouraged to be courteous and well behaved at all times. This is frequently commented on by guests and visitors.

The school is always keen to encourage parents to become involved in the work of the school by helping in the classrooms, joining the Parent Association or the Governing Body.

Marine Park endeavors to create a wide range of experiences within a secure and enjoyable environment to equip your child with the skills needed to fulfill their potential.

Marine Park is a Community First School for boys and girls from 3 to 9 years old. The school has a Nursery Class.

The Local Education Authority is: North Tyneside Council
Schools Services
Stephenson House
Stephenson Street
North Shields

Telephone: (0191) 200 5151

There are on average, 480 children in the school with an annual intake of approximately 80.

Children are admitted to the school in the academic year in which they reach their fifth birthday but may join the Nursery Class after their third birthday. The school follows the admission policy of the Local Education Authority. The Nursery admissions are taken from a list held in school admitting children from the catchment, children with sibling links and then by the nearest walking distance to the school, in that order. To add a name to the Nursery List please phone the school office on 0191 200 8723. To be in Marine Park Nursery does NOT automatically guarantee a child a place in Marine Park Reception. Admission to our Reception class follows the procedure laid down by the Local Authority admitting children from the catchment, children with sibling links and then by nearest walking distance to the school, in that order. Children moving school after the start of Reception will be admitted to Marine Park First School if places are available.

The school organizes visits to the Reception Classes and meetings for new parents. Details of these visits are sent to the parents by post. Nursery children regularly visit the Reception classes in the Summer Term, an important part of their preparation for school.

On each normal school day the teaching time is 4 hours 30 minutes making a total of 22 hours 30 minutes per week. This does not include break times, registration times and time given to an act of worship. The starting and finishing times are:

Nursery:	9.00 a.m.	-	11.30 a.m.
	1.00 p.m.	-	3.30 p.m.
Reception	9.00 a.m.	-	11.45 p.m.
	12.45 p.m.		3.30 p.m.
All other classes:	9.00 a.m.	-	12.15 p.m.
	1.15 p.m.	-	3.30 p.m.

Punctual arrival is requested. Frequent late arrival disrupts a child's learning and may cause distress. Parents are required to give written notification of any absence by their children. The school has an excellent attendance record; there were no unauthorized pupil absences in the academic year prior to publication of this brochure.

3. ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 Nursery

The Nursery is staffed by a qualified teacher and two teaching assistants. In addition there is normally at least one student. A high level of staffing is maintained at all times to ensure that the Nursery provides a happy and stimulating environment where children can learn to live, work and play together. The needs of young children are catered for and their interests in the world about them are stimulated.

Play is important to the young child, as it is through play activities that a child is able to express emotions, explore and assimilate new ideas and experience and learn new skills. Nursery activities are planned to give every child opportunities to develop and learn.

All the activities of the Nursery provide an excellent foundation for work in later classes. Liaison between Nursery and Reception classes is developed positively to ensure that transition between the two is as smooth as possible.

Successful education is a partnership between home and school. The help and support of parents in preparing their children for school entry and in encouraging them in all aspects of school life is valued highly at Marine Park.

A separate Nursery booklet is sent to all parents of children entering the Nursery. A special meeting is organized for parents and a visit for the children is arranged prior to them starting Nursery.

3.2 Year Groups

In Reception the aim is to have small classes and so ensure the individual needs of young children are met. The Reception Classes work closely together to ensure equality of provision and a very high standard across the whole year group. Reception has one teacher and one qualified teaching assistant in each class to provide a progression from our Nursery and a firm foundation for the National Curriculum. The reception classes cover the complete range of the Early Learning goals and address all subjects in an atmosphere suitable for young children. During the final term the National Curriculum is introduced.

The remaining Year Groups, Year 1 to Year 4, run in three parallel, mixed ability classes per year and the Governors aim to maintain a good adult pupil ratio. The children work only in classes with children of their own age.

The classes have regular additional teaching and other adult support, ensuring an adult : child ratio of 1:15 for the academic teaching in Key Stage 1. Parental involvement in the classroom is encouraged; in this way the children are given contact with a large variety of adults during their time in school.

The children work in groups within the classroom. The groups are at times arranged according to ability, interest or the requirement of the task. Care is taken to ensure that both

learning situations and teaching methods are appropriate. The children experience a variety of teaching methods, including specialist teaching. Subject specific techniques as well as an integrated approach are adopted in a flexible response to the needs of the topic or situation.

As a large school, Marine Park is able to appoint members of staff with the full range of curricular expertise. Strong curriculum leadership is provided which, in turn, ensures excellent curriculum development.

Marine Park is a training school and as such trains new teachers alongside our excellent teaching staff.

3.3 Discipline

The school's policy on behaviour is to encourage the children to have a high regard for themselves and for others. Therefore, the children are expected to behave in a polite and sensible way. The children are fully involved in those decisions which affect them; through this process an appreciation of the rules needed to live and work together amicably at Marine Park is developed.

If the behaviour of any child is causing concern, the school works with the parents to resolve the problem.

The school will intervene immediately to prevent bullying or other violent behaviour. Violent play is discouraged and toys associated with violence are not allowed at school. Success in this area depends extensively on the active support of parents.

3.4 School Meals

Children may stay at school for lunch, which is cooked in the school kitchen. The children have a choice of healthy meals and can select from a range of vegetables and salads; desserts are provided. The money or preferably a cheque made payable to Scolarest, is collected on the first day of the week for the whole week. The money or cheque must be put in a Scolarest envelope, available in each classroom, with the child's name and class number clearly printed on the outside.

Application forms for free school meals are available from the Secretary. All enquiries are treated in confidence and no discrimination is made between children who pay and those who have free meals.

Facilities are available for children to bring a packed lunch, although the school meal is of excellent quality and value and is therefore most popular. If a packed meal is brought it must be in a suitable container marked with the child's name. When changing from a hot meal to a packed lunch, two weeks' notice is required, because the food is ordered in advance.

3.5 School Uniform

The school has a uniform, which each child is encouraged to wear. The range of uniform is wide and flexible enough to be economic. The children may wear jumpers or cardigans in royal blue, navy or red, with white or blue blouses or shirts. Skirts, shorts, trousers or track suit bottoms in any of the above colours or in grey are acceptable. In the Summer, clothing in the school colours in lightweight material is encouraged. For example, a girl may choose to wear a dress with red and blue checks or flowers on it.

Parents wanting items embroidered with the school logo may obtain them using the order form available from the school office.

Children are strongly discouraged from wearing denim jeans in school and jewellery must not be worn.

Appropriate clothing must be worn for Physical Education; a red T-shirt and black or navy shorts are suitable and gym shoes, preferably without laces, should be provided. A tracksuit is advised for older children for games on the excellent all weather pitch.

3.6 Educational Visits

The school encourages children to gain first hand experience of educational situations by making relevant visits, for which parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution to cover the cost.

In the event of a residential visit parents are asked to pay the cost of board and subsistence. However transport and any extra charges are sought as a voluntary contribution.

Without the necessary level of voluntary contribution, many activities out of school would not be possible. However, no children would ever be excluded from an activity because there was no voluntary contribution from their parents.

4. TEACHING AND LEARNING

4.1 The School Staff

Details of those involved in the running of Marine Park First School can be found on a separate sheet enclosed with this brochure. A school as large as Marine Park is able to maintain a staff with a range of qualifications and expertise. This range ensures that the skills required in each subject of the National Curriculum are provided to meet the demands of all of the curriculum specialties needed in Key Stage 2.

The staff, both teaching and teaching support, ensure they keep up with all the latest requirements by following a carefully planned development programme. In addition the staff have a broad range of interests which add to the extracurricular dimensions of the school.

Marine Park enjoys the support of a large number of visiting staff, who bring with them particular skills to support the learning and to develop the abilities of the children. Every person involved in the school has an interest in the quality of provision given.

4.2 The Curriculum

4.2.1 Curriculum Policy

The curriculum offered at Marine Park is planned to develop the academic, aesthetic, social and moral well-being of all the children in the school. It is taught in such a way to ensure a joy of learning is experienced by the pupils.

The school works within the framework of the National Curriculum which covers the core subjects of Mathematics, Science and English and the foundation subjects of History,

Geography, Technology, Information Technology, Art, Music and Physical Education. Religious Education is also provided. The requirements for assessment at the end of Key Stage 1 are carried out when the children are in Year 2. The most recent Key Stage 1 assessment results can be found on a separate sheet enclosed with this brochure. All teachers, however, evaluate children's work using appropriate assessment procedures throughout the school year. The school has recently introduced the teaching of French.

Much of the children's work is cross-curricular and encourages an active involvement in the learning process. Sex education and other important issues, such as drugs and pollution, are approached through our topic work at a level appropriate for young children. Children's natural curiosity about the world around them is encouraged through the provision of a stimulating classroom environment and extended contact with the world outside. Investigational work is encouraged in all curriculum areas.

High priority is given to the achievement of literacy, numeracy and oracy. A wide variety of teaching techniques and a wide range of activities is employed to deliver the curriculum.

Teachers plan together to ensure equality of provision across year groups and progression through the school.

The curriculum provides for all children in the school. Many children at some time in their school career will need extra help with some aspect of their work. These children are identified by class teachers, and the situation is fully discussed with the parents concerned. Such children can then receive extra help from the school's support teacher, or from the specially trained support auxiliaries. The help takes the form of regular short periods of extra tuition, geared to the child's individual needs, for as long as it is judged necessary. Support for children with formally identified Special Educational Needs falls within the requirements of the Code of Practice. The school's policy on Special Educational Needs is available to read in school on request. The school's admission policy is the same for all pupils. Those with disabilities as listed under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 are treated appropriately to their individual needs, some may for example have Special Educational Needs. The school has children with identified special medical needs.

Each curriculum area is co-ordinated by one of the staff who is able to give advice and share expertise on the subject concerned. The school has documented policies for all subject areas: all policy documents are available for parents to read in school. Each policy is subject to continuous review to ensure that the requirements of the Department for Education are met. The following sections give brief statements of the aims of the school in each curriculum area.

4.2.2 English

Children throughout the school follow the National Curriculum, which incorporates the Literacy Strategy. This includes the ability and opportunity to listen and express themselves orally. Emphasis is given to the development of reading using a variety of both structured schemes and library books. The children are given an opportunity to develop written language, which is taught using various activities. The skills and understanding developed in this subject are used in every other aspect of the children's learning.

4.2.3 Mathematics

Mathematical skills are developed in Marine Park through work with the Numeracy Strategy and both published and school schemes. These concentrate on basic skills and sets mathematics in the context of real situations. These also offer genuine opportunities to develop skills through problem solving. Emphasis is placed on continuity and progression and a variety of carefully structured approaches is used to meet individual needs. The love of mathematics is encouraged through the use of a large variety of activities which encourage numeracy.

4.2.4. Science

At Marine Park science teaching is designed to encourage and develop curiosity about the world around us, and through the structure of scientific processes, to begin to satisfy the curiosity developed. The scientific process gives an organized means of study. It is concerned with observation, questioning, experimenting, decision making and the application of findings, all based on real evidence. Science is a systematic approach to problem finding and problem solving and the children are required to be active participants at all stages and levels.

4.2.5. Design Technology

Technology enables us to achieve a satisfying quality of life. Children at Marine Park are encouraged to look at their own environment and experience and find challenges to tackle, using their skills in Science, Mathematics, English, Art, etc. in a practical way. Reference is made throughout the teaching of Technology to aesthetic, cultural and historical links. Technology is valuable for social and thinking skills. Children are collaborating, exploring, organising and communicating. Self-evaluation of the chosen solution is given a high importance.

4.2.6. History

The children study units within the appropriate levels of the National Curriculum, either as an individual subject or as part of an integrated topic. Throughout the work, children are encouraged to gain first hand experience using visits and artifacts. Opportunities are given through visits to emphasize a particular period of history; for example, to spend a day at Jarrow and become a monk or become a Roman Soldier at Arbeia. Recording their learning takes many forms.

4.2.7 Geography

The National Curriculum provides a structure through which geographical information can be learned and geographical skills practiced. At Marine Park this involves integrated topic work carefully chosen to cover all the elements required. Children go out and see geographical features for themselves. They are encouraged to use books, video-recordings and the internet to gain information about places further afield or features which they cannot easily visit.

An awareness of the environment and the need to protect it and understand the important effect human beings have on it, is introduced into both Geography and History.

4.2.8 Information and Communication Technology

The school has a major commitment to Information and Communication Technology; the staff receive the most up-to-date material and training. Each class has a computer with appropriate programmes and in addition the computer room is time-tabled to provide children with highly developed programmes for Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 and 2. The children also have access to the intra-net, a controlled use of the internet, especially designed for North Tyneside pupils.

Information and Communication Technology studies reach into most other areas of the National Curriculum.

4.2.9 Physical Education

Children's physical development is very important. At Marine Park a variety of sporting activities is provided, including gymnastics, games, dance, athletics and swimming. The children are encouraged to develop confidence and a desire to improve on the individual's own performance. The need for young children to have the opportunity to enjoy physical activity is recognized. The school uses a range of visiting experts and alternative activities to encourage the pupil's interest in sport. The training given in the skills required for games such as rugby, cricket, netball and football is rewarded. Marine Park children play mini rugby league, as Whitley Bay Warriors, and are having great success. We have pupils representing under 10s in Northern Leagues for both football and rugby. The school's gymnastic coaching also equips the children well and honors are gained in local competitions. The school was awarded Active Mark Gold in recognition of the outstanding work we do in this area of the curriculum. The school still maintains the standards required for this award. The school takes part in inter school competitions and always performs well.

4.2.10 Art

Children are given opportunities to explore a wide variety of materials and techniques within the framework of a topic as well as being given structured art activities. Children are encouraged to express and develop their ideas through art work and to enjoy the aesthetic value of art. High priority is given to displays and to valuing all children's work.

4.2.11 Music

Music is very important at Marine Park. Singing and the appreciation of music are taught in every class. The children have the opportunity to use a large variety of percussion instruments. Recorder is taught to children who show an interest in learning to play a musical instrument and music plays a very important part in all the school's productions. The children have the opportunity to learn violin, cello and clarinet from peripatetic music staff.

4.2.12 Religious Education

The school uses the Religious Education Syllabus provided by North Tyneside Local Education Authority. The policy is broadly Christian; tolerance of the beliefs of other faiths is encouraged. The school's position is that the basic religious principles are a 'way of life' and

that the children should be helped to understand the part these have to play in developing a caring society. The special value of people is stressed, and the children are encouraged to be considerate towards others, to share what they have with one another and to care and protect the world in which they live.

A copy of the Religious Education policy is available to read in school on request.

There is a variety of school assemblies each week and the children are encouraged to participate in these enjoyable occasions. Classes take it in turn to lead the assembly.

Any parent has the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education lessons or from the school's daily act of worship.

4.3 Beyond the Classroom

The school has a computer suite with the provision of special programmes and the opportunity to work together using specialized equipment. The computers are Networked and linked to the National Grid for Learning. This teaching resource is available to all the children.

The Library contains an area where displays and opportunities for interactive learning across the Curriculum can be extended.

The school's drive to extend learning beyond the classroom has won high acclaim from advisers, Her Majesty's Inspectors and other professional visitors. Many parents bring their expertise to share with the children. In the upper part of the school subject expertise and specialized equipment add an extra dimension to the work already done in the classrooms

The children are involved in improving their environment by entering the Gardening and the Tidy School Award. These activities form part of the work done to encourage the pupils to become good citizens now and in the future. The value of the community is shared with the children through visits to events and places locally and by involving the local community in the life of the school. Visits from the police, the fire service and the ambulance service are encouraged. The children are actively involved in the Healthy School Award, which encourages their participation at an appropriate level in the working of the school.

Marine Park children are offered a range of extra opportunities to enrich their school experience. The children are taken on educational visits linked with their learning, using the rich environment around our school and a little further afield. The Year 4 children are taken away for a week to an outdoor activity centre especially geared for this age of child. Here they have the opportunity not only to learn from first hand experience but also to learn to live together, away from home, in safe surroundings. The school staff are supported by expert staff at the centres used.

The school runs a drama club and a choir, which work towards productions at Christmas and at the end of the Summer Term. Regular recorder clubs work closely with those learning to play violins and clarinets, to provide an extra musical opportunity for the children. The school supports local events by entering art, crafts and sports teams in various competitions. The children write the school newspaper, which is produced periodically during the year and which won commendation in the Schools' Competitions of both the Daily Telegraph and The Journal.

The children's involvement in all outside school activities is encouraged and their success in these ventures is shared with the school in assembly.

5. THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

5.1 The Governing Body

The Governors of Marine Park bring to the school a variety of experiences and expertise. They serve for four years and elections for vacant positions are organized through the school.

The present Governors are identified on the list enclosed with this brochure. The date adjacent to the name of each Parent Governor in the list indicates the end of the current term of office. An election for that seat on the Governing Body is held at an early opportunity after the indicated date and the existing Parent Governor may stand for re-election.

5.2 Communications

Keeping parents in touch with school life is important and parents are welcome in school at all times. Parents with a problem are invited to discuss it with the Class Teacher or the Headteacher straight away. Happy children learn more readily and it is important that any problems are sorted out quickly.

Parents receive special invitations to consult with the staff about their children's progress during the school year. Such consultation varies from an informal conversation to formal appointments during the school year. In the Summer term each child's record of achievement is shared with the parents. General information is sent with the children during the year in the form of Friday Newsletters.

5.3 The Parents' Association

The aim of the Parents' Association is to assist in providing for the school, equipment not provided by the Local Education Authority directly or through the school budget. Every parent is automatically a part of the Association. The Parents' Association Committee comprises sixteen nominated members and welcomes any parents or friends who would like to participate. The Committee is a sociable, friendly group which organizes events of a fund raising, social or educational nature.

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5.4 Health Care

Children with special problems such as hearing or speech difficulties are checked periodically by Health Professionals from Monkseaton Clinic. All of the Local Authority's services are available to the children. These include the Psychological Service, the Educational Welfare Service and the Medical Services. On request, the school will advise you further about any of these services.

Parents wishing to contact the Public Health Nurse (Children and Young People) – formerly known as school nurse – can ring Monkseaton Clinic telephone 0191 2524264. The nurse can give advice and support to children and parents/carers on various health matters such as behavioral problems, bedwetting, growth and development or any other health concerns.

It may be necessary to contact parents in the event of illness or accident during school hours, so it is important that the fact sheet distributed annually, is filled in and returned to the school. Parents are asked to inform the school without delay should their address or telephone number change. If hospital treatment is required and parents are not available,

the Headteacher will take responsibility for ensuring that children are escorted to hospital and for arranging continued efforts to contact parents.

Children who need to visit doctors, dentists etc., during school hours must bring a note to school and such children must be collected and returned to school by a recognized adult. Teachers must be notified if a child will be returned for a school meal. If late, the meal can be put aside provided we have been notified before 9.30 on the morning concerned. Parents are asked to inform the school in writing of the cause and estimated duration of any absence.

The school has several members of staff with first aid qualifications. These are kept up-to-date and ensure that any accidents which do occur in school are dealt with by qualified people.

5.5 The Extended School Day

There is a club providing a service for parents from 8.00 - 9.00 a.m. This club is known as the Early Birds Club. A club is also run after school for the children of working parents. Details of the arrangements and charges are available from the school office.

6. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Parents who have complaints about curriculum matters or collective worship under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act, should note that such complaints are dealt with under the Local Education Authority's "Guidelines on Complaints" procedure. This document is available for reference in school, Public Libraries and the Education Office.

7. TRANSFER TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

At the end of the educational year during which they become 9 years old, children transfer to the Middle School in whose catchment area they reside or to an alternative school if the Authority is able to accede to their parents' request. Forms for parents to request their choice of Middle School are issued during the Autumn term and places are offered by the Authority at a later date.

Good liaison has been established with the Middle Schools. Arrangements have also been made for the children and their parents to visit the Middle School towards the end of the Summer Term or on other possible, informal, occasions. Each Middle School's First Year Tutor visits Marine Park First School and spends time with Year 4 teachers, discussing the needs of the children due to transfer.