

2023/24

Welcome to Deans Primary School



Welcome and Positive Relationships in our School

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to Deans Primary School. We are so excited that you are joining our Deans family! Our community is built on the strong foundations of working successfully in partnership with our families and community. Underpinning all areas of school life and work are our school values! Listen to some of our children here talk about why our values are important to them!

To ensure that our children are able to thrive in a safe and exciting learning environment, we work hard to ensure that the relationships we have with all members of our school and wider community are strong. To build on this strength, we aim to do the following things to foster and develop these relationships:

- To work alongside our parents, carers and local community in active partnership to develop and maintain positive relationships where all members trust, **respect** and **support** each other.
- To value all children as unique individuals who feel **included** and **supported**.
- To encourage children to develop self-discipline so that they learn to set their own goals and targets, **challenging** themselves to have high expectations for their own attainment and achievement: #DreamBigAtDeans
- To lead children towards being responsible and accountable for their actions and to **support** them to make the right choices.
- To build a culture where all members of our community feel **valued**, raising self-esteem, confidence and resilience with the creation of opportunities for recognising personal achievement in all areas.
- To help children manage their emotions by teaching them strategies that will have a positive impact on learning and social situations in a **nurturing** and **safe** environment.
- To be clear, consistent, firm and fair in promoting good standards of behaviour, built on positive relationships where we **respect** and **value** each other.

All staff, pupils, parents, carers and members of our local community should feel **Safe, Valued, Nurtured, Supported, Respected, Included and Challenged**.

Our Vision and Values



Our Values are at the heart of everything we do at Deans Primary School. Please scan our QR code to hear our children talk about them!

Our Values are:

- Safe
- Supported
- Nurtured
- Included
- Valued
- Respected
- Challenged

Our Vision Statement is 'A love of Learning, for life, for all'

We try to ensure that we maintain positive relationships with all members of our school community through a number of mechanisms, including:

- Tea/Coffee and chat each day in the playground at the beginning and end of the day
- Twitter presence for each class
- Monthly newsletters
- Weekly Talking Newsletters
- HT Drop in each Monday
- Our School App
- Open door policy - parents/carers through general communication are asked to contact Mrs. Stewart if they have any questions, concerns, worries or ideas around our school improvement or pupil wellbeing
- Learning Breakfasts
- Values Day
- Sharing the Learning Days



Attendance at Deans Primary School

Please help us develop in your child a regular habit of good time keeping. If circumstances arise when your child will be unavoidably late please let us know if you can. Our school enters pupil absence electronically using codes for particular reasons for absence.

Our school has a system which sends out an automated text message to a mobile telephone in cases of unexplained absence. The text is repeated regularly until answered. Parents/carers and schools must work in partnership in order to benefit from early notification of unexplained absence from school. Parents are urged to opt into this system. If your child is absent from school for any reason, please contact us by phone (01506 411208) as soon after 8.30am in the morning as possible. If you telephone before 8.30am you can leave a message on the answer phone.

It's your job to contact the school early on the first morning of your child's absence and provide an explanation. If the school is not contacted then a Group Call (text) alert will be sent. **It is essential that you contact the school as soon as possible.** If no contact is made, the school will follow WLC policy and report this absence to the Children and Young People's Team, if no contact is made by then the police will be informed as this is about your child's safety.

As part of West Lothian Attendance policy, we look at pupil attendance on a regular basis. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, this will be followed up with a letter, informing you of this, as well as the opportunity to look at how we, as a school, can support your child and your family to attend school.

Regular updates around attendance are included in our monthly school newsletter.

To support attendance at school, we are going to be launching a weekly class prize for the class who has the highest rate of attendance. We will launch this on Friday at our school assembly. I have included a handy guide below here which shows how many days missed our key percentages relate to. It makes for very interesting reading. I appreciate your ongoing support with this. If there is anything you feel we could be doing to support you or your child with attendance, then please contact me at the school.

90% attendance - 17 full days lost

85% attendance - 26 full days lost

80% attendance - 35 full days lost

75% attendance - 41 full days lost

70% attendance - 50 full days lost

Any days lost in learning result in gaps. Every day in our school is exceptionally busy and the children experience a wide range of learning. Fridays are also filled with learning. I am exceptionally worried about the number of children who regularly do not attend school on a Friday. Every minute in school counts for our children!

Time off during the school term

Attendance at school is monitored according to West Lothian Council guidelines.

A child's progress can be hindered by poor attendance at school as he/she misses out on valuable learning opportunities. This prevents him/her achieving their full potential.

We monitor attendance regularly and send out information letters to parents who may not have realised just how often their child has missed school. If attendance does not improve the Children and Young People's Team is contacted and a home visit may be made.

For continuity of your child's learning, we would ask you to refrain from taking your child out of school on holiday during term time. Where such a holiday is unavoidable please inform the school as early as possible before the event. These absences are recorded as "unauthorised."

School Dress Code

In accordance with West Lothian Council policy, we expect all Deans pupils to follow our dress code. We consider it important that pupils come to school wearing our school colours - red and white. These colours can be combined with grey and black. A suitable code of dress has been established:

- Deans waterproof jacket (available in red)
- Deans fleece (available in red)
- Deans t-shirt (available in red or white)
- Deans polo shirt (available in red or white)
- Deans sweatshirt (available in red for P1-6 and black for P7 only)
- Grey/black trousers
- Dark skirt grey/black
- Deans red/white check summer dresses
- Deans school tie
- Deans school badge.

The school office will issue uniform order forms at regular intervals throughout the school year. A small stock is kept in school. You can order online at any time from Border Embroideries at <http://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/> or from My Clothing at <http://myclothing.com>

Uniform can also be purchased from local shops to ensure we are keeping the cost of the school day as low as we can. If you need any help or support around uniform, please contact Mrs. Stewart at the school who will be more than happy to help.

Football strips should not be worn to school.

We ask parents to please ensure that **all** garments are either named or marked in a way that can be identified. It is important that gym shoes and wellington boots should also be marked. For art and craft work, the school supplies painting aprons but it is helpful if parents provide their child with an old shirt or overall.

School Clothing Grants are available to parents in receipt of a qualifying benefit, application forms are available online.

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/mealsandclothing>

Our Curriculum at Deans

Every child and young person in Scotland is entitled to experience a broad general education, as described by the Scottish Government's Curriculum for Excellence. The curriculum is organised into eight broad categories.

Expressive arts

Includes art and design, dance, drama and music.

Health and wellbeing

Mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing, planning for choices and changes, PE, activity and sport, food and health, substance misuse and relationships, sexual health and parenthood.

Languages

Includes learning about English as well as our cluster focus for Modern Languages on French and Spanish.

Numeracy and Mathematics

Includes using real life experiences to make predictions, connect to other things, provide skills to understand and examine information, simplify and solve problems, assess risk and make informed decisions. We use Number Talks across our school to encourage our children to use a range of strategies to solve problems.

Religious and moral education

Includes exploring the world's major religions as well as views that are non-religious. Your child will think about their own beliefs and values. Children learn about Christian practice in worship and the place of Christian action in the community. Children will also study other world religions in line with national guidelines.

Sciences

Includes learning about the natural world and living things, forces, chemical changes and our senses.

Social studies

Includes developing understanding of the world by learning about other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances.

Technologies

Our Deans Curriculum



We **nurture** our pupils so that they become **confident individuals** with self respect, a sense of physical, mental and emotional wellbeing and secure values and beliefs

We **challenge** and **support** our pupils so they become **successful learners** and **effective contributors** with an enthusiasm and motivation for learning, a determination to reach high standards of achievement, an openness to new thinking and ideas, an enterprising attitude, resilience and self-reliance

We show our pupils what it means to be **respected, included and valued** so that they become **responsible citizens** who have respect for others and a commitment to participate responsibly in political, economic, social and cultural life

We ensure our pupils feel and know how to be **safe** so that they become **confident individuals** with a sense of physical, mental and emotional wellbeing and are able to assess risk and take informed decisions

- Positive relationships policy
- Family support worker
- Allocation of Pupil support staff
- Garden Gang
- Sharing Shed and targeted financial support
- Assemblies- values and UNCRC focus
- Star awards, magic moments, values champions
- Girfec pupil questionnaires
- 1:1 check ins
- Nurture groups
- Equity and Excellence meetings

- Dream Big at Deans policy documents
- Equity and Excellence meetings
- IEP's/CPM's/AOW
- Partnerships with other agencies
- Allocation of Pupil support staff
- After school clubs
- Targeted SFL
- Long, short and medium term planning using pathways
- Aifl strategies
- Bump it up walls
- Scottish Enterprise partnership
- Headstrong partnership
- Hidden giants partnership

- Leadership and pupil participation groups
- curriculum pathways
- Pupil learning conversations
- Girfec and pupil power questionnaires
- Assemblies- values and UNCRC focus
- Positive relationships policy
- Skills progression pathways
- Partnership with Scottish Enterprise

- Child Protection procedures
- One trusted adult
- curriculum pathways
- girfec questionnaires
- Assemblies- values and UNCRC focus

Structure of our Deans School day

Breakfast Club

8.10a.m

Start time

8.55am

Playtime

P4 - P7

10.30a.m - 10.45a.m

P1 - P3

10.50a.m -11.05am

Lunchtime

P4 - P7

12.20p.m - 1p.m

P1 - P3

1p.m -1.40pm

End of school day (Mon-Thu)

3.15pm

End of school day (Friday)

12.30p.m Bad Weather

Arrangements are in place to allow children into school a short time before the bell if the weather is really bad. Even in wet/snowy weather children can manage to get themselves out of their outdoor clothes (contrary to what they'd have you believe!!). Too many adults in the cloakroom area cause congestion and compromise security.

Breakfast Club

We have a very popular breakfast club every morning starting at 8.10am. Breakfast can include a variety of cereals, toast, fruit and fresh juice. This is free for all pupils. More information on how to register for this is available from the school office.

Jewellery

This can easily be misplaced. Again, try to imagine trying to remove, look after and then replace items of jewellery at gym time, as well as supervise the changing of all the children. For this reason we respectfully request that jewellery should not be worn to school.

Celebrating success

We try our best to create an ethos where everyone is valued and where children and teachers enjoy the right to learn and teach. We are so proud of our pupils' achievements both in and out of school so please let us know about any your child's achievements so we can celebrate their success together. They may even make it onto our 'Magic Moments' wall of fame!

