

# **Stonelow Junior School Prospectus 2023-2024**



A very warm welcome to Stonelow Junior School, we hope our prospectus gives you a flavour of the wonderful things we do. Stonelow is a warm, happy and nurturing school where the children are encouraged to challenge themselves, develop resilience and learn from their mistakes. We strive to support individuals so they are respectful, independent young people.

Staff at Stonelow work as a team to deliver an active and creative curriculum for all, ensuring our pupils learn the knowledge and skills needed to progress through their school life, and provide a firm foundation for future learning. We have high expectations of everyone in school; children and staff alike. We aim for a calm, orderly, safe and purposeful environment, where learning is fun, challenging and aspirational.

We recognise our position within families, school and community and aim to build positive relationships with all of these. #teamstonelow

We are very proud to be the headteachers of such an exceptional school. We welcome you in at any time.

Catherine Byard and Jennifer Nabipour

## **School Vision and Aims**

At Stonelow Junior School, our vision is to develop confident, inquisitive and happy learners (both children and staff) who are:

- Willing to learn by trying, by embracing failure and by celebrating their own and other's successes
- Able to work independently and as part of a team #teamstonelow
- Willing to challenge themselves and deepen their thinking about the world around them
- Responsible, caring and respectful to all (in our school community and wider community)
- Able to take risks within a safe and nurturing environment

We will achieve this by creating a whole school ethos based on support and trust and a curriculum that is stimulating and enjoyable.

## **General Information**



Stonelow Junior School was built in 1967. It is a three-floored building, situated in its own spacious grounds, which include a large flat playground and a spacious school playing field. There is a tyre run, trim trail, building zone, willow tunnel garden area, pond, building zone and outdoor stage, to name a selection.

Our building has a large multi-purpose hall, its own school kitchen where food is prepared on site, seven classrooms, a library which is utilised for Connection Round the Table as well, an outdoor nurture room called the Hive, computer suite and a meeting room/office for our Family Support Worker. Classrooms are newly decorated in calm, homely styles to support the calm, purposeful atmosphere required to learn effectively and equipped with interactive screens.

We understand and appreciate the positive impact that an environment has on us all and feedback from our open afternoons has been hugely positive. Staff and children alike are enjoying the beautiful new feel of school; much more relaxing and comforting...in fact more like being at home. We have said goodbye to bold, bright, overwhelming primary colours, busy displays and clutter. We have chosen muted tones with natural elements, texture and soft lighting. Stonelow is unique in many ways – but our décor is definitely one of them.





Our school office is run by Mrs Dilly – if you need to ask a question, she is your first port of call and will be able to help or direct you.

Her email address is [info@dronfieldstonelow.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@dronfieldstonelow.derbyshire.sch.uk) and the school phone number is 01246 414370. During busy times we have an answer machine which you can leave a message on – we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Staff also make their email addresses available so you can contact someone directly. We value communication between home and school very highly and recognise that this is also important to you as parents and carers.

## **Staying Safe**

In actively promoting good behaviour, we aim to foster a caring atmosphere within a trusting school community. Our wish is for everyone to feel happy and secure, and have a place where confidence and respect for others can be developed successfully. We encourage a sense of responsibility and self-discipline through belonging to, and being part of, our school community – #teamstonelow.

It is recognised that children of this age are still learning the social skills necessary to be able to live, work and play together in a wider community effectively. For times when additional provision may be needed, we have a full-time Family Support Worker who is available to support children and families (another unique element of our school). Shona Hardcastle is a highly skilled member of our team, able to provide first line support to children and families when/if it is needed. Her work within our school and reaching out to outside agencies is providing outstanding support.

Through modelling, highlighting good behaviour, adult led teaching, PSHE/RSHE lessons, mutual respect for all and rewards, we promote good behaviour. Using encouragement, praise and recognition forms a large part of the school day. Unacceptable behaviour is dealt with fairly and consistently. Our school values the support of parents in all aspects of school life to ensure the good behaviour, safety and welfare of all.

## **Safeguarding**

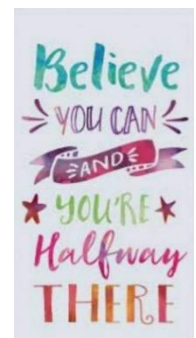
The school has designated safeguarding leads (DSL) and a clear policy for dealing with incidents of any safeguarding nature. Staff are required to take any reasonable action to ensure the safety and protection of all the pupils. In cases where there is a potentially serious safeguarding concern/disclosure, a DSL is obliged to follow the safeguarding procedures and must inform Starting Point (referral line) of the concern. Please see our website for more information on this.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

Attendance and punctuality are they key elements to the best education for any child. However, should your child not be well enough for school on any given day, parents/carers should contact Mrs Dilly giving reasons for absence as soon as possible (before 9.20am). If we are unable to answer the school phone, please leave a message on the answer machine with your child's name, class and reason for absence.



Our school playground is open and staffed from 8.40am and children will come into school at 8.55am. Please ensure that your child arrives on time so they do not miss the start of the school day when learning begins. Our day always starts with a Daily Affirmation, morning jobs and the register. It is a perfect time to check everyone is ready for learning and provide support where support is needed.



**Please note:** We are unable to authorise term time holidays except in exceptional circumstances. Failure to obtain permission at least 2 weeks ahead may result in unauthorised absences and parents being fined.

## **Illness or Accident**

If a child becomes ill at school or has an accident, he/she/they will receive attention from a member of staff - all staff are first aid trained. Occasionally it may be necessary to contact parents to arrange for their child to be collected from school or be notified of an accident. Please ensure school has the correct contact information at all times.

## Medicine in School

The policy for Administration of Medicines is available from the school office. It is based on Local Authority guidance, stating: 'Medicines should only be taken in school when essential; that is, where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day. Medicines must always be accompanied by a parental consent form.' We are happy to support children with medication with parental consent. Please ensure school knows of any allergies or medical conditions...even if you think they are small.

## Being Healthy

It is the aim of the school to provide children with opportunities to take part in a variety of sporting activities. The PE scheme of work used in school is REAL PE and develops the key abilities children need to be successful in sport and across the curriculum and in life beyond Stonelow. It is a unique child centred approach which challenges every child at their own level. We believe in the message of REAL PE which is: 'Giving every child the physical literacy, emotional and thinking skills to achieve in PE, sport and life.'



Swimming instruction is provided for the children at Dronfield Sports Centre. Our swimming programme includes the development of swimming competence and aspects of water safety as well as working towards the end of KS2 requirement to be able to swim at least 25m.



Having a snack and staying hydrated is very important and for lots of children, and means they can learn effectively all morning. Children are encouraged to bring a healthy low sugar/fat/salt snack from home each day e.g. fresh/dried fruit or raw vegetables, to eat at morning break. Water is available at the drinking fountains outside each class where pupils can refill a named water bottle brought in from home.

Our lovely school kitchen staff make healthy meals which meet the government standards. They are prepared on the premises and eaten in our school hall. Children are encouraged to eat healthy, balanced meals and special diets are catered for (please inform the school office). Children who bring a packed lunch, are encouraged to have healthy meals e.g. no fizzy drinks. Parents may be entitled to assistance with the provision of school meals. Details of entitlement and application forms can be discussed in confidence at the school office with Mrs Dilly. It is the responsibility of parents to make the application and to ensure authorisation. School meals are paid for using the cashless system Parent Pay.

## **School Uniform**

Our latest school uniform policy recognises the cost implications of buying strict school uniform requirements and aims to offer options which are reasonably priced. Our uniform helps children develop a sense of belonging to our school and to identify with our values and expectations.

Pupils may wear:

- White or pale blue polo shirt, with or without school badge
- Blue sweatshirt/cardigan, with or without the school badge
- Checked dresses for summer
- Black or grey trousers, skirt or shorts
- Shoes should be flat, black and appropriate for school.



Sweatshirts, fleeces, polo shirts and PE t-shirts with the school logo can be ordered from the links on the school website. Further information is available in the school office if you need any help. Jeans or sportswear should not be worn as part of school uniform.



Non-uniform tickets are provided as rewards. These can be used on any day apart from a school trip, visit or school photo day. The aim of these tickets is to allow children to dress in their own style for a day and feel special and unique.

Children need a PE kit in school every day for both indoor and outdoor physical activities. When indoors, children should wear plimsolls / trainers, PE t-shirt and shorts. For outdoor PE sessions children need trainers, a warm top and bottoms e.g. jogging bottoms / leggings or similar. It is really important that all items of PE kit are clearly named.

In addition to their uniform, children may wear a watch (not a smart watch) and one pair of small stud earrings. Other items of jewellery should not be worn and nothing of sentimental value. All jewellery needs to be removed (or stud earring covered in tape) for PE and swimming -long hair needs to be tied back in PE.



## **Roles and Responsibilities**

During their time at Stonelow, the children have opportunities to become part of the school community, by taking on responsibilities and roles around school. Some of these may include:



School Council: 2 children from each class are elected by their peers to stand on the School Council for a term. They are a huge part of pupil voice, role models to their peers, responsible for a weekly celebrations assembly and monitoring our rewards system. They also organise charity events or days in school.

Eco Council: 2 children from each class working as part of a school team to raise awareness of 'green issues', recycling, saving water, fair trade fortnight, switch off fortnight etc. just to name a few.



Morning assistants: a small group of children who volunteer to help in school before registration time to help set up the classrooms, sharpen pencils, switch on PCs etc. We can't manage without this team!

Mini Leaders: Running playtime games and challenges of a sporting nature for all children who wish to join. These children have official training for a morning by Derbyshire School Sports Partnership and receive badges when targets are achieved.



I-vengers: children who have expertise and interest in all things computer and IT based. They also support online safety agendas, special days and messages.

Sound and lighting technicians: Children who want to be a huge help in assemblies, supporting the member of staff for the day.

Buddy Readers: Children supporting other children in reading, providing times to read and be read to, ask questions and complete reading diaries.



## **Making a Positive Contribution**

### Home and School:

- Educational Partnerships: All members of staff at Stonelow Junior School share a firm belief in, and commitment to, the partnership between teachers, parents and children in their education. This is the basis of the Home-School Agreement, which has been drawn up in consultation with parents. Parents are kept informed of the school's activities through updates and messages on our school APP Parenthub. We also use school email.
- Parents Meetings for all parents to discuss individual children's progress with the class teacher, occur in the autumn and spring terms. There is a written report in the summer term followed by a parent drop in session for parents wishing to discuss the report further. The Headteacher or Family Support Worker are happy to meet with parents to discuss any aspect of school life. Please get in contact either by email or calling the school office.
- Through the year there are times when parents are invited to see performances, celebrations, themed days and work share – you are always warmly welcomed.



## **Admissions**

If you are considering applying for a place at our wonderful school, we highly recommend you come and have a look around first. We would be happy to see you.

The Local Authority (LA) is responsible for the administration for all admissions and enables parents to express a preference for 1, 2 or 3 schools and to place those preferences in rank order. Parents need to make their application online and it is submitted to the LA.

Derbyshire residents wishing to apply for a school within another Local Authority should do so directly to that authority and not to Derbyshire.

More information about admissions can be found at  
[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions) 01629 537479

## **Pupils with disabilities**

It is the priority of Derbyshire and the School, wherever possible, to meet children's needs in mainstream schools. It is unlawful for schools to discriminate against disabled pupils and prospective pupils in the provision of education and associated activities in schools, and in respect of admissions and exclusions.

Schools and the Local Authority are required to plan improvements to access for disabled people, however it should be noted that Stonelow was built on three levels which means there are sets of stairs with no lift. The School's Accessibility Plan/ Disability Equality Scheme is available in the school office. You are most welcome to come and see us at school to see if our site would work for you and your child.

## **Personal Possessions**

To prevent any upset or challenges with lost/damaged items, personal possessions and anything of a valuable or sentimental value should be left at home and not brought to school. Wherever possible, possessions coming to school – particularly clothing, lunch boxes and water bottles – should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Dress jewellery is not appropriate to wear to school. Children do not need to bring a pencil case or stationery from home – everything they need is already in the classroom.





## Wellbeing

Wellbeing is a high priority for everyone at Stonelow – children, staff and families alike. We know that wellness comes in many forms and we work hard to support everyone in the ‘Stonelow Family’. We are also very proud to be the first Trauma and Mental Health Informed School in Derbyshire, an Attachment Aware School and the first Bronze BERT Award School (Building Effective Relationships Together). We have a superb Family Support Worker – Shona Hardcastle - and a large network of trained staff who can give care in many different ways. Working as a team we can provide valuable support and provision for everyone’s wellbeing and we appreciate your input as parents/carers in that team too.



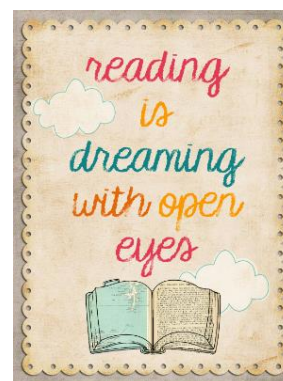
## Computing

Computers, ipads and laptops are used as an integral part of learning and all children acquire skills, competence and confidence through regular hands-on experience from the time they start at Stonelow. The school has a suite of computers which all have internet access, a set of school laptops. iPads are also used across school. Online safety is woven through computing lessons and RSHE/PSHE.



## Home reading

We encourage children to read as widely and as often possible. The school has colour banded reading books which can be taken home; children gain greatly from practising reading with parents. In addition, books from the school library can be borrowed, along with books from the class/year group library; parents are welcome to discuss reading with the class teacher. We also have a parent/carer library in the entrance of school with adult books – please feel free to borrow, read and return a book at any time...we know that parents who read often have children who read...what could be better!



## Homework

Children in all year groups are set a reasonable amount of homework each week. Sometimes there will be a topic related challenge or task which we call un-homework. In addition we ask all children to read 3 times per week to parents (and more if they would like to), which is recorded in a Reading Diary. Parents are also asked to support their children learning times tables and spellings using our learning platforms TTRockstars and EdShed (which are paid for by school) and accessed online through their personal account. Children needing support with homework can complete tasks in school, outside of class teaching time if needed – please speak to the class teacher.



## Attainment, Progress, Curriculum

One of our main goals at Stonelow is for each child to reach their full potential and be ready for their transition to secondary school when they leave us in Year 6.

Each year the children in this year group sit national assessments known as SATS and we are always incredibly proud of the individual effort made by each child.

Our results vary each year, as do each cohort of children – no group is ever the same. We endeavour to support each child in every way possible and this is a heartfelt commitment.

For Stonelow, an important part of our ethos is to recognise the importance of a broad, balanced and creative curriculum which does not solely focus on reading writing and maths. There will be many children with passions and talents in subjects other than the core ones and we recognise the importance of these skills in life and work. Our curriculum supports this with specialist/enthusiastic teachers for subjects such as science, French, computing, history, geography, PE, art, DT, music, RE.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) and Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) are taught by class teachers and the themes and learning within this area of the curriculum is of very high value. The curriculum plan overviews can be found on our school website.



Our unique timetable means that in the afternoon, children see a different teacher each afternoon who delivers a lesson which they are either leader of, passionate about or have great experience in delivering. This also supports relationships around school and transition when children move to the next year group.

We have broken the mould to do what is best for the children!

## Support and our Family Support Worker

As we value all children equally for their different abilities and achievements, we aim to provide support for those who need it. This may be ongoing support for individual children or small groups, one off/short term support, for example at assembly time or it may be for parents and families. We acknowledge that sometimes the hardest part is asking for help, therefore we will make a commitment to provide a listening ear, guidance, direction or support, depending on what is best for your child or family.

The door is open for a chat as we strongly believe in close working partnerships between home and school is the key to great success for all.

Shona Hardcastle is our Family Support Worker. This role means she is available to help children and families when support is needed. From small worries to big challenges, she can listen and provide advice or direct help. As a trained Trauma Informed Practitioner and Deputy Safeguarding Lead, her work is golden at Stonelow. To speak to Shona, please call the school office on 01246 414370. Her room is a safe, calm and supportive space in which children and families can meet. We are so lucky to have this available, so we can meet your needs.



As a school we are invested in supporting good mental health and well-being and have a Growth Mindset thread running throughout school. This supports children to have good self-esteem, positive attitudes to challenge and great resilience. All vital life skills to learn and develop as children grow and change ready for their next steps.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Children with SEND are supported by our SENDco Liz Kent. Liz works with children who have an IEP, EHCP, funding such as SSEN or GRIP and emerging SEND needs. It is the policy of this school and the Local Authority to include, as fully as possible, any child with Special Educational Needs or Disability in mainstream education, within their local community. Children with SEND at Stonelow are provided with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Children with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) may have extra support and resources provided by the LA in addition to what school can provide.

Provision is made within the child's class by the class teacher, who will set work at an appropriate level for current needs. Some support may also be available from Teaching Assistants in school.

Children's work and progress is monitored by Liz, in accordance with the Special Needs Code of Practice. We also have good relationships with outside agencies such as the LA Educational Psychologist.

Liz can be contacted in school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday or by email.

## **Pupil Premium**

Pupil Premium is additional to main school funding, aimed to address the current underlying inequalities identified nationally between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. 'Pupil premium is funding to improve education outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools in England.'

Pupil Premium is allocated to schools each year and is up to the individual schools to decide how it is spent for additional provision. Pupil Premium information is also provided on the school website.

If you think you may be eligible for free school meals or PP Funding for your child please enquire at the school office how to do this.

## **School Visits and Visitors**

Opportunities are provided for the children to extend and enhance their learning experiences through school visits and visitors. These are arranged within the local and wider community. Children benefit greatly by the educational visits made possible by the good of our local community contacts and by the voluntary contributions made by parents. We value experiences which enhance learning and try to include these wherever we can.



## **Residential Visits**

Pupils from all year groups have the opportunity to take part in a residential visit each year. These may be to an outdoor activity centre or youth hostel to take part in adventurous activities such as rock climbing, stream scrambling, low ropes, team building, den making for example. These are always the highlight trips of their time at Stonelow, providing valuable social experiences which are remembered a long time after leaving the school. For children not wishing to attend, provision is made in school.



## **Charging Policy (1988 Education Reform Act)**

Certain activities organised by a school are subject to being funded by voluntary contributions or charges.

### Charges to Parents

- A charge is made for music tuition provided at the school. If a school instrument is available, it will be loaned without a charge.
- A charge is made for the 'board and lodging' element, and the instructor fees for activities of a residential educational visit.
- A charge may be made for any activity that takes place mainly or entirely outside of school hours.

Voluntary contributions are requested from parents for educational visits, which take place wholly, or mainly during school hours, and may be requested to meet the cost of the visits to school by professionals such as a theatre production or an artist.

In the past, all the events organised on this based have taken place. This reflects the much valued support which the school receives from parents in organising such activities for the children, to enrich the curriculum. However, if on any occasion there were to be insufficient contributions then the planned event may not be able to go ahead. Support is available for families in receipt of certain benefits – please call the school office and speak to Mrs Dilly.

## **School Concerts**



Concerts and class assemblies provide the children with opportunities to perform, sing, dance, act and play instruments for a family audience. We welcome families into school to be wowed at the wonderful and varied talents of our children...we often see children sharing a different side to themselves, shining in a new way and growing in confidence.

## Assemblies and Assembly Time

Monday	Mrs Byard, School Council Meeting, class support groups
Tuesday	School Council Meeting, class support groups
Wednesday	Staff rota and class support groups
Thursday	Whole school celebration assembly led by School Council
Friday	Reward time

## Music Tuition and Music

Music lessons with the specialist visiting music tutors are arranged in school. Details and charges can be obtained from the office. Arrangements can also be made for children to take the Associated Board Music exams. Years 4 and 6 have a block of whole class instrument lessons paid for by school and delivered by Wider Opportunities Music Service each year. We also have the Charanga scheme which is taught weekly to all children.



## After School Clubs



After school clubs are provided for the children to develop their interests and their social skills. The clubs available are reviewed each half term depending on demand and the time of the year. These are varied and include musical theatre, street dance, sports and science from FabLab.

## Complaints

Each school is responsible for considering complaints against it. Most complaints can be resolved through discussion at an early stage; we would always encourage you to come in to school or make an appointment if you have a concern. Please raise a concern with either the class teacher, Family Support Worker or the Headteacher. If parents are not satisfied with the Headteacher's response, then they should ask for the complaint to be considered by the school Governing Body. The complaints procedure issued by the LA is applicable to this school and is available from the school office.

## At the end of their time at Stonelow

Your children will take with them:

- A firm foundation for future learning - a secure knowledge of basic skills, a desire to build on this knowledge and the ability to recognise and celebrate their successes.
- Practical, social and emotional life skills that will support them into the future.
- An understanding of what it is like to be part of the Stonelow family - sharing, learning, failing and succeeding together.

