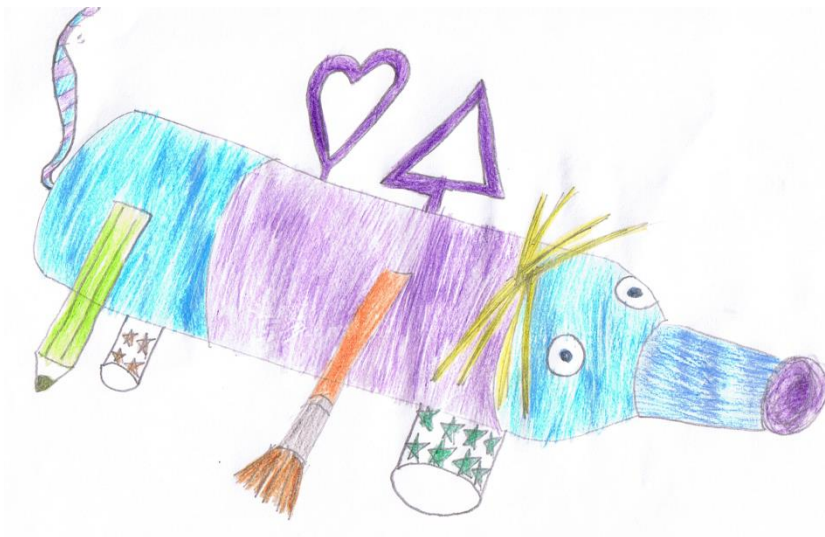




'Making Memories Magical'

Prospectus

2017 – 2018



Headteacher

Mr. Paul McDowell



*Welcome to
Prospect Vale Primary
School
From the Headteacher*



Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the staff and Governing Body I wish you a very warm welcome to Prospect Vale Primary School. Within this prospectus, we hope to give you a taste of the exciting curriculum and enrichment opportunities that our children experience.

This booklet aims to provide information you may need and signpost you to key representatives of the Prospect Vale community.

The staff at Prospect Vale work hard to create a warm, friendly and safe atmosphere whereby all community members experience a sense of belonging. We pride ourselves on catering for the individual needs of each and every one of our pupils, helping them to reach their potential and celebrate their unique personalities and successes.

We believe that creativity in our approach promotes the development of skills and a true passion for learning as the children engage in fun and stimulating activities. We strive to 'make memories magical' throughout the school, preparing our children for a meaningful and rewarding 'learning journey.'

Should you require further details of school life or wish to view our school for future admissions, then please do feel free to contact us.

School Performance data can be found on our website, alongside our positive report from OFSTED inspectors (November 2013).

I look forward to a vibrant partnership and working with you to provide the very best education for your child.

Kind regards

Paul McDowell

Headteacher



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CONTACT US



School Office Opening Times

8:30am to 4:00pm

Telephone: 0161 437 4226

Fax: 0161 498 8708

www.prospectvale.stockport.sch.uk

Address

Prospect Vale Primary School
Prospect Vale,
Heald Green,
Cheadle,
Cheshire,
SK8 3RJ

Headteacher

Mr P McDowell

Headteacher@prospectvale.stockport.sch.uk

School Business Manager

Mrs. G Carter

schooladmin@prospectvale.stockport.sch.uk

School Overview



Prospect Vale is a co-educational primary school with approximately 210 pupils, with an additional 40 part-time pupils in the nursery. The school was built in 1963 and is set in attractive grounds with extensive playing fields and playgrounds for sporting and leisure activities. We are still in the process of updating our Early Years area with planting and have previously created a new willow dome, supporting our sustainability work. We also have a 'courtyard garden' where our children are encouraged to grow vegetables. This is used for culinary activities and as a stimulus for art. (Come and see our UNICEF Sculpture Garden!)

Over the years the school has undergone refurbishment including sound insulation, double glazing, new ventilation and lighting systems and carpeting/ lino throughout. Additional car parking and a teaching extension were also added.

During the summer of 2010, we completely re-furbished our ICT Suite (The E-Zone) with 30 workstations with Windows 7 software and touch screen facilities. Our dining room was refurbished in 2011 and we continue to develop a courtyard garden for the children. In 2012 staff and pupil toilets were refurbished and classrooms were decorated. All remaining toilets were refurbished in the summer of 2017.

Recently, we have reinstated showering facilities for staff well-being. Zig-Zag lines to promote pupil safety were added in February 2012. We have worked with Stockport Homes to improve the rear entrance path to school off Brandon Avenue. Our EYFS Department and hall were transformed in 2013 to coincide with the 50th Anniversary Celebrations. We have also refurbished our 'Learning Zone' to create space for a before/after school club ('Jets' Club). In 2016 we have spent funds re-modelling our playground. This now also has attractive markings.

The pupil intake is from a large area and comprises of children from a range of cultural backgrounds. Generally, pupils leave Prospect Vale and go to The Kingsway School. Some pupils take entrance examinations and attend a variety of secondary schools in the independent sector.

The school has received four successful OfSTED inspection reports in recent years with the very successful last inspection having taken

place in November 2013. Currently, the school performs well when compared to both, all schools on a national basis, and especially so when compared to similar schools nationally in regard to SATs results.

The Headteacher, Mr Paul McDowell, was appointed in September 2009. The Deputy Headteacher, Mr Stefan Papadopoulos was appointed in September 2011.



A Message From The Chair Of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to introduce you to the Governing Body of Prospect Vale Primary School. We are made-up of representatives of the Local Education Authority, parents, staff, the local community and industry. We are legally responsible for the policy and finances of the school.

But that sounds impersonal, whereas in reality we are a dedicated group of people who are deeply proud of Prospect Vale School and its achievements. We know that each child at our school is respected as an individual and helped to gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes to fit them for adult life.

The governing body is here to give support to the school and work alongside both parents and the children. We have a detailed School Development Plan, which is both strategic and operational in its content and areas of monitoring to support school performance and staff endeavours.

You can contact me via the school office should you need to. Should you wish to become a parent governor please ask if there are any vacancies.

We hope your association with the school is a long and happy one! I look forward to meeting you throughout your journey with us!

Yours sincerely

Ian Cottrell

Chair of Governors

Our Governing Body



LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

Mr I. Cottrell (**Chair**)
Mrs A. Thompson (**Vice- Chair**)

PARENT GOVERNORS

Mr T. Waddington
Miss M. Wardle
Mrs D. Mitchell
Mrs N. Shafique
Mrs C. Soiland - Reyes

COMMUNITY GOVERNORS

Mrs J. Holt
Ms R. Ghelani

STAFF GOVERNORS/ ASSOCIATE

Mr P. McDowell- Headteacher
Mrs J. Novacki- Y3 Class Teacher
Mrs G. Carter- School Business Manager- ASSOCIATE
Mr S. Papadopoulos- Deputy Headteacher-ASSOCIATE

(Governors are elected periodically. There are three full governing body meetings per year, plus sub-groups meetings on a termly basis.)

The School Staff



TEACHING STAFF

Headteacher	Mr P. McDowell
Deputy Headteacher	Mr S. Papadopoulos
Nursery Manager	Mrs C. Bradbury
Reception	Miss L. Cleary (SENCO)
Year 1	Mr S. Papadopoulos
Year 2	Mrs C. Turnbull-Mills
Year 3	Mrs J. Novacki
Year 4	Mrs Smithson (4 days)/ Mrs White
Year 5	Mr D. Gray
Year 6	Mr W. Dudley
Support Teachers	PPA currently covered by Mrs S. Hall (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)
Music/PPA Cover Teacher	Mrs F. White

SUPPORT STAFF

Business Manager	Mrs G. Carter
Administrative Assistant	Mrs M. Taylor
Administrative Assistant	Ms N. Mather
Higher Level Teacher Assistant	Mrs S. Hall
Learning Support Assistants	Mrs S. Lawrence
	Mrs M. Taylor
	Mrs S. Sardeshpande
	Miss K. Jones
	Miss G. Wieland
	Mrs T. Earl

MIDDAY ASSISTANTS

Mrs M. Taylor
Mrs J. Flanagan
Mrs A. Ghaznavi
Mrs M. Parke (Supervisor)
Mrs N. Husna

CARETAKER

Mr A. Grix

CLEANER

Adept Contract Cleaning

CATERING

Miss L. Jones & Assistant

The School Day

Nursery

Nursery age children are entitled to 15 hours per week. We offer various options following consultation/personal parental preferences. This year some parents may be entitled to 30 hours of free care.

Part Time AM

Monday to Friday Mornings – Start 8:45am Finish 11:45am

Part Time PM

Monday to Friday Afternoons – Start 12:15pm Finish 3:15pm

Full Time Start of Week

Monday & Tuesday – Start 8.45am Finish 3:15pm

Wednesday – Start 8.45am Finish 11:45am

Full Time End of Week

Wednesday – Start 12:15pm Finish 3:15pm

Thursday & Friday – Start 8.45am Finish 3:15pm

*Extra hours may be available for an additional cost. Please speak to the office staff.



Staff are available from 8:40am for supervision of children arriving on the playground. The bell goes at 8:55am and the children immediately enter school and go to class.

If you arrive after 8:55am please make your way to the main entrance and sign your child in the pupil late book. This is imperative to ensure we can update the register with the correct mark.

On receipt of your child's school report, you will receive an attendance report showing any absences and the total number of late sessions recorded.

Infants - Reception & KS1 (Year 1 to Year 2)

Start 8:55am Finish 3:10pm

Juniors – KS2 (Year 3 to Year 6)

Start 8:55am Finish 3:15pm

We ask that children are collected promptly and the school office is informed if you are running late.

Extra-Curricular Activities



A variety of extra-curricular activities are offered during lunchtimes and after school so as to encourage pupils to participate in as broad a curriculum as possible. These activities include a range of musical, physical & creative activities. More information can be found on the school website and will be advertised when available throughout the school year.

Educational Trips and Visits

As part of broad curriculum of the school the children take part in educational study visits and a range of musical and creative activities (as well as observing invited art/theatre groups).

It is necessary to ask parents for contributions to the cost of the materials, tuition or events in order that they can take place. We aim at keeping these costs to the minimum but should any parents experience any difficulties in paying for these activities they should contact, confidentially, the Headteacher. Unfortunately we may have to cancel enrichment opportunities if insufficient funds are raised. Occasionally, school is able to fund trips to support families.

Residential Opportunities

Alongside the extra-curricular activities which take place during term-time, children in Year 6 are given the opportunity to participate in a residential experiences. This has been to the Robinwood Centre in Alston, Cumbria. This is a wonderful opportunity and provides super, ever-lasting memories. We also have a school sleep- over in Year 5.

Admissions

To apply for a place in our school please contact Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC);

Admissions Support & Advice Team

Services to People 3rd Floor Stopford House Stockport SK1 3XE

E: admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk

T: 0161 217 6028 **F:** 0161 953 0012

W: www.stockport.gov.uk (search for school admissions)

Please see below table to see if it's your time to apply;

For places starting in September 2017 at ...	Children born between...	Should apply by ...
Secondary schools (Year 7)	1st September 2006 - 31st August 2007	31 st October 2017
Primary schools (Reception class)	1st September 2013 - 31st August 2014	15 th January 2018
Nursery schools	1st September 2014 - 31st August 2015	31 st March 2017

If you would like to visit our school or enquire about Open Days, please contact the school office on **0161 437 4226**.

You can download an application form from the SMBC website, request one by phone or collect one from the school office.

In year transfers & admissions excluding Reception & Nursery

Please contact the school to enquire if there is a place in the desired year group. If there is you will need to apply to SMBC (details above).

If you are not offered a place at the school you are able, as previously outlined, to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel. This must be made in writing to Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, Education Division, Admissions Section, Town Hall, Stockport, SK1 3XE. Please contact admissions if you require further information.

Free School Meals

Application forms and further information regarding entitlement are available from the SMBC

Free School Meals and Clothing Grants Team

Stockport Council Benefits Section P O Box 70, Stockport. SK1 3ZY

E: benefitsfsm@stockport.gov.uk **T:** 0161 217 6015 **F:** 0161 474 5202

School Uniform

All children are expected to wear school uniform. You can order your school uniform from <http://www.monkhouse.com/> or by visiting the local store at:

F.R. Monkhouse Ltd.
The Shopping Centre
Cheadle Hulme
Cheshire
SK8 5BE

0161 488 3410

At Key Stage 2 level, a swimming costume and towel will be required. Children who are involved in playing football will need boots.

Year 6 wear a purple sweatshirt giving them higher profile in preparation for High School.

Footwear

Please ensure that suitable black shoes (no boots) are worn during school. During bad weather we ask that if children walk to school in boots or wellies, they change to school shoes on arrival.

Suitable footwear for PE (plimsolls or trainers) is required. For younger children, please provide footwear that they can manage themselves; plimsolls with elastic tops or trainers with Velcro fastenings may be better than laces. No 'designer' or team sportswear please.

Please ensure that all items are clearly marked with your child's name. It is the responsibility of each child to keep their property safe and if the garment named, it can be returned if lost. The school or the L.A. cannot accept liability for loss or damage.

Jewellery

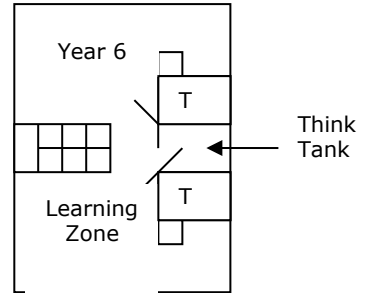
Apart from small studs worn in pierced ears, the wearing of jewellery by pupils in school is forbidden on health and safety grounds. Valuable items should not be brought into school. We encourage children to wear a watch to assist them in learning to tell the time.

Nails/Makeup

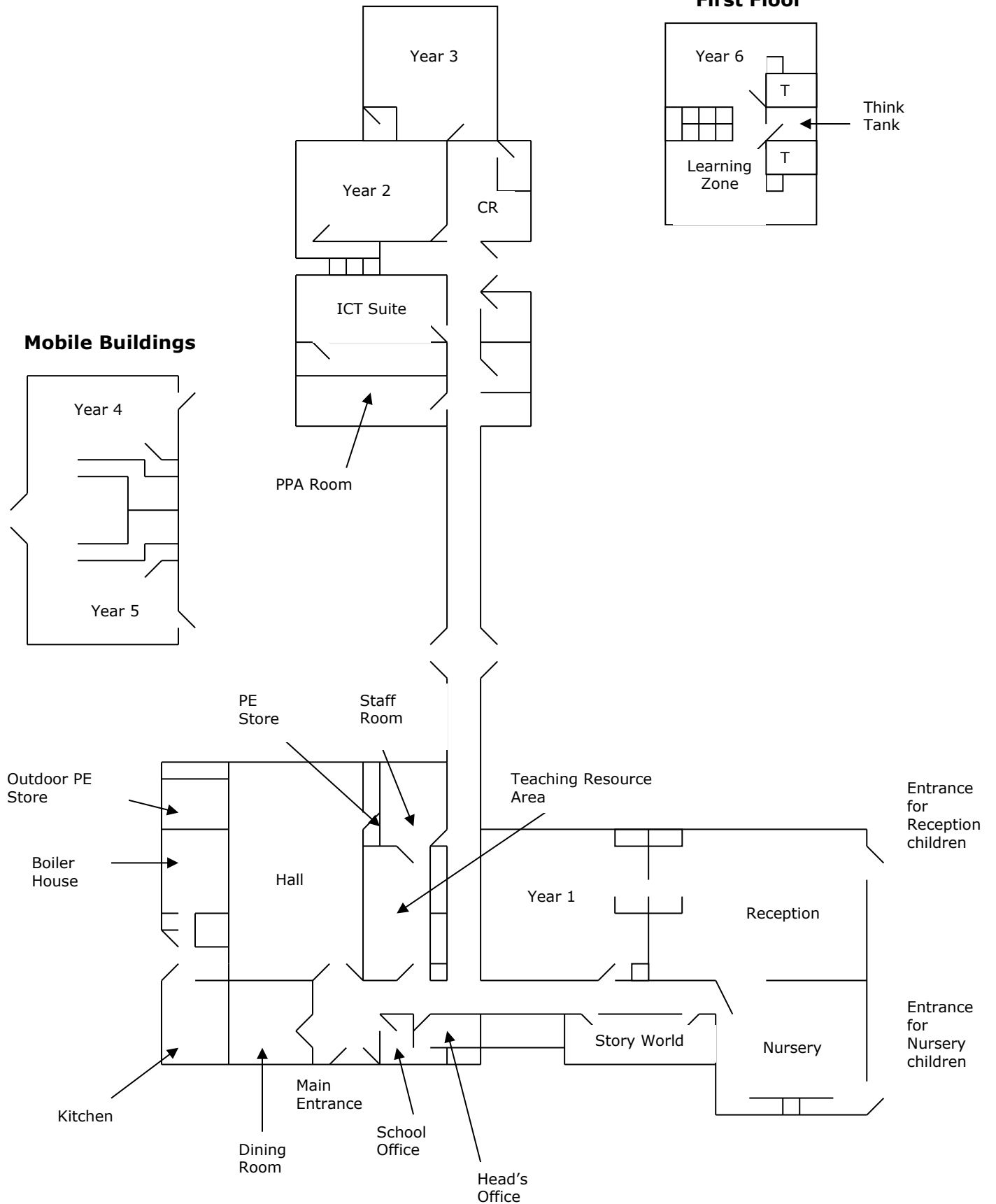
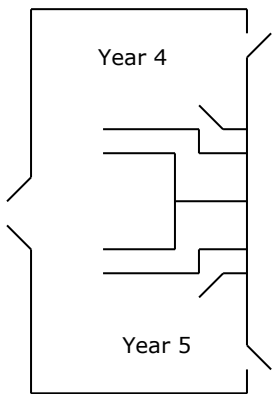
Make Up in school is not required unless for theatrical productions. Nails should be natural or painted clear. No vibrant colours/false nails should be seen in class. If your child has attended a special celebration please ensure nails are removed in a timely fashion.

Map of the School

First Floor



Mobile Buildings



Mobile Phones

The school's policy is to prohibit the unauthorised use by pupils of mobile phones while on school premises, grounds or on residential visits. The only exception to this would be in an emergency, health and safety grounds, or with the express approval of a senior member of staff. We ask that visitors don't use phones inside the school building.

Parents in Partnership

To promote the full development of children and achieve a high quality of education it is essential that the home and school work closely together and share joint concern for individual pupils.

We welcome parental interest and support and encourage participation in the life of the school by representation on the governing body, parents' meetings, class assemblies, class and headteacher newsletters and induction programmes. Many parents assist the staff with classroom activities, extra-curricular activities, transport and educational visits.

Parents' Evenings are held during the year to discuss progress, but parents are also welcome to enquire about their child's progress at any time. Appointments can be held with the relevant staff to discuss progress or problems.

In the past few years we have updated our communication systems with a fresh new website with online calendar that is regularly updated. We also e-mail correspondence and text alert parents with information and helpful reminders.

In 2013 we were re-awarded L.P.P.A. (Leading Parent Partnership Award) status for our strong relationship with members of the community.

PTFA

Welcome to the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) at Prospect Vale School.

The PTFA was set up by likeminded people who want to support our local school, with help from parents, teachers and friends in the local community. We arrange fund raising events for the school, which provide an extra source of revenue to help enrich the learning environment and experience of the children who attend Prospect Vale Primary School.

In the current economic climate it's more and more important we help wherever we can to support our local school. The support we receive helps our children grow and make our school a better place to be.

All of the events organised by the PTFA are designed to support the school and are also lots of fun for all of the children who attend. We run film nights, discos, mother's and father's day events and summer and winter fairs with stalls, games and a visit from Santa at Christmas.

All of the money raised is spent by the school; we have provided computer equipment for the ICT Suite, books and outdoor play equipment with money raised over the last few years. We have recently funded new playground markings and hope it adds more to the EYFS area this year.

We are always looking for new members to help support us, so if you can give us some of your time this would help to support our school. You would be made very welcome!

Thanks again and if you have any questions then please contact me.

Shaun Holdom

Chairman of the Prospect Vale PTFA

As of August 2017, our PTFA is not active; a decision made due to the increasing demands on parents time. Following a successful 'Seaside' charity fundraiser, Mr McDowell hopes to develop a small group of parents from each class to take the PTFA into the future looking at what manageable.

Curriculum Statement

The whole school curriculum, incorporating the National Curriculum (2014) is offered at Prospect Vale. It aims to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. We take our children on a Creative Learning Journey, starting with the grass roots of the Early Years and Foundation Stage.

The National Curriculum consists of 10 subjects which all pupils must study at school, plus the provision of religious education and collective acts of worship. The subjects are English, mathematics, science, information and communication technology, design technology, history, music, art physical education and geography. English, mathematics, science, information and communication technology and religious education are known as the 'core' subjects whilst the remaining subjects are known as the 'foundation' subjects.

For each subject there are objectives or goals setting out what each child should know and be able to do at each stage of their time at school. These objectives are called 'attainment targets'. So as to achieve these targets each child will be encouraged to learn information and to develop skills and attitudes.

The curriculum has a 3-fold thread focussing upon widening geographical context, the development/history of transport and safety.

Pastoral Care

We envisage that a stable, secure, friendly relationship will prevail between our staff, pupils and the home. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, have a caring approach to their work with the children. Through this policy we hope to encourage close links between the home and school.

The Headteacher, Mr P.McDowell, is available to discuss both everyday and confidential matters which may affect your child's progress at school.

There is an Educational Welfare Officer attached to the school via the LA who will be pleased to visit your home should any specific problem arise. Additionally, we may be able to access the support of a P.S.A (Parent Support Advisor.)

Special Needs Procedures Including Provision For Pupils with Disabilities

Within our classroom organisation we cater for children of various ability levels. Children are encouraged to proceed at their own rate, being given the opportunity to both extend and consolidate concepts in order to reach their potential.

For those pupils who have a particular learning or behavioural difficulty we attempt to offer as much individual help as possible. The school employs additional staff to support pupils who experience difficulties and generally assist the class teachers. In addition, Stockport LA provide a back-up service of specialist teachers and educational psychologists again supported from our own budget.

The school Inclusion Manager is Miss L. Cleary

The school has a detailed SEN policy and **School Offer** which identifies each stage of the SEN process including the procedure of SEN, formal and teacher assessment, documentation and the review process. The School Offer can be found on the school website.

The 3 main strands of our SEN Register are: One Page Profile, One Page Profile PLUS and *Education and Health Care Plans* (EHCP.) This register is updated on a termly basis and a new Provision Map identifying Special Educational Needs through school is mapped out. This details support through school for those children that need it. Children who have EHCP have detailed provision maps detailing support and programmes that they receive in school.

All parents who have children on the SEN Register will have the opportunity to discuss their child's individual targets and progress with the class teacher (One page Profile) or S.E.N.C.O (One page profile Plus / EHCP) on a termly basis. These reviews are child centred and your child will be involved in contributing to the review.

The school may, after consultation with parents/carers, ask the educational psychologist or other Stockport Support Agencies to assess a specific child who is continuing to experience problems. In exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to make a request for an *Education and Health Care Plan* for a child's special needs. At all

stages parents/carers will be consulted and informed of the processes being undertaken to assist their child. Parents/carers will be invited to review meetings.

Parents/carers of pupils with physical disabilities would need to consult with the Headteacher to discover whether their special needs could be met at Prospect Vale as the current layout of the school with a first floor, narrow doorways, two mobile classrooms and a variety of internal steps and doorways does not lend itself to being 'disabled friendly'. However, all steps would be taken to accommodate any child with physical disabilities.

Sporting Achievements

Prospect Vale has a great reputation for success in many different types of sport. We are part of the Stockport Schools Partnership (SSP.) This includes:

- Inter school competitions to win house group points. For example – Key Stage 2 football and rounders tournaments and whole school sports day.
- Local cluster groups competitions including athletics hosted by The Kingsway and Year 5/6 football tournament involving 10 schools.
- National competitions – 'PV Flyers' cheerleading squad have successfully competed and remained in the Top 6 at the UKCA National Schools Cheerleading Championship 3 years on the run!
- An afternoon of specialist teaching as part of our SSP buy – back with the Local Authority.

Our Year 6 Sports Leaders are given the opportunity to not only lead our own Prospect Vale children in different physical activities, but are also invited to go into other local Schools to plan and deliver PE sessions to younger pupils at other schools. This encourages sportsmanship and Team Work as the Sports leaders from Prospect Vale work alongside the Sports leaders from our cluster schools.

All our pupils have had the benefit of receiving extra sports coaching from experts in speciality fields including netball, dodgeball, Ultimate Frisbee and Capoeira. Local sports clubs are invited into school to introduce themselves and offer trial sessions and the school have excellent links with some local clubs such as Rising Stars Cheerleaders. This year we propose taking classes to the Velodrome and Debdale Park.

There are extensive opportunities for pupils to participate in afterschool and lunchtime clubs including Cheerleading, athletics, netball, dance, football and racket sports.

Our pupils are encouraged to share their sporting achievements gained outside of school. We celebrate these by displaying them on our 'Sporting hall of fame' wall.

Behaviour

Of vital importance is a proper sense of responsibility. This can only be fostered when children feel a sense of freedom and are able to play a part in decision-making. At the same time, they must see that life in a community demands personal reliability and a willingness to accept that other people have rights.

In the rare circumstance of an exclusion being undertaken, after the initial 5 days of parental supervision in the home, we have a reciprocal agreement with Cheadle Primary for tuition.

Self-discipline and common sense are therefore encouraged at Prospect Vale. Rules are few in number and children will be expected to demonstrate courtesy, consideration, good manners and respect for property.

If problems arise, all children will be dealt with fairly and consistently. Discussion of behaviour or withdrawal of privileges is often sufficient but for more serious occurrences consultation with parents will be considered. Parental support is sought constantly so that a troubled child receives wise counsel both at home and at school. The child can only benefit when we work together.

In 2017 we have revisited training and our commitment to Restorative Approach to dealing with difficult situations and preventing/ resolving conflict. We have trained staff at all levels and 12 of our current Y6 as RA Champions. We hope to embed this philosophy further in the new academic year.

Further information can be found in the school's Discipline and Behaviour Policy (available upon request).

Positive behaviour is modelled, celebrated and awarded by all staff. Our Snakes and ladders system is used across school for a continuous approach.

Assessment

Reception and Nursery Assessment

Assessment plays an important part in helping parents/carers and practitioners to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, and to plan activities and support. Ongoing assessment (also known as formative assessment) is an integral part of the learning and development process. It involves practitioners observing children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles, and to then shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations. In their interactions with children, practitioners should respond to their own day-to-day observations about children's progress and observations that parents and carers share.

Upon entry to the school, in Nursery and Reception, the pupils undertake a Baseline Assessment to establish each pupil's level of ability, this is carried out by observations in the classroom, completion of adult led tasks and talking to the parents/carers.

This information is then used by the teaching staff to inform the planning of appropriate learning activities and experiences. This is also the first stage of a detailed on-going electronic pupil tracking process (known as SIMS) which will identify strengths and areas for improvement through to Year 6.

Pupils are continually assessed by teachers in all areas of the National Curriculum. Statutory assessment is scheduled to be made twice during each pupil's primary school career. This is through the Standard Attainment Tests (SATs). These tests in English, mathematics and science are administered in Years 2 and 6.

In Years 3, 4 and 5, the pupils undertake formal assessments. Year 1 children have a Phonics exercise to carry out in the summer term.

The school regularly uses nationally standardised tests in reading, mathematics and spelling and this information is again utilised to track pupil progress.

We have reviewed how we report levels and have updated parents/carers in the Spring Term 2016.

Reports

An annual report is issued to the parents/guardians of each pupil in the school. This provides written comments on the child's progress and

overall performance in the school. We also set targets in English, mathematics and pastoral development for each pupil in these reports. There is an opportunity for both pupils and parents to comment on these reports and visit the school to meet the class teacher at a specific Parents' Evening. We have two formal meetings, and we also have an end of year 'Open Evening' to celebrate our successes.

Curriculum Subjects



English

English is the study of the use of language through listening, speaking, reading and writing which are all interactive and complementary. It is the tool through which each of the other curriculum areas are accessed.

Through teaching English at Prospect Vale we aim to develop:

- proficiency in listening and speaking;
- proficiency in standard English (Spelling and Grammar), both verbal and written;
- appreciation of a variety of literature, including poetry;
- the ability to understand, use, modify and adapt language for particular contexts;
- the understanding and use of appropriate linguistic terminology.

In the Nursery and Reception the 'Early Learning Goals' provide the initial framework for the teaching of English. The National Literacy Strategy is an integral part of teaching English for Years 1 to 6 and provides a structured and progressive scheme through which reading and writing skills are developed.

Speaking and Listening: The emphasis in the Early Years on speaking and listening builds on the pupils' existing knowledge and experience of language and is sustained and maintained throughout every section of education.

Reading: The teaching of reading is ongoing in all classes throughout most of the curriculum. The Literacy Hour is the main tool for the teaching of reading and children are taught to read through whole

class, group and individual approaches. Each class has a writer (author) focus.

Throughout the school pupils and parents are encouraged to take part in a 'shared reading' approach which is a simple and flexible technique for encouraging reading development whilst helping to nurture a love of books in children.

There is a wide range of material used in the teaching of reading in school. The core schemes, The Oxford Reading Tree, Tree Tops, Oxford Literacy Web (Oxford University Press) and All Board (Ginn) are supplemented by other schemes and a range of non-fiction, poetry and 'free choice' fiction material.

The pupils are also encouraged to borrow books from collections supplied by the school's own fiction and non-fiction libraries.

Writing: Writing is the medium for communication, a means of creativity and an aid to learning in all subjects. The beginning of the writing process begins in Nursery with mark making and culminates in Year 6 with the ability to write enthusiastically, confidently and independently for a range of different purposes and audiences. Grammar and spelling are focus areas.

Mathematics

The National Curriculum order for mathematics describes what must be taught in each key stage. Prospect Vale follows the National Numeracy Strategy framework, which provides detailed guidance for the implementation of the National Curriculum for mathematics. This ensures continuity and progression in the teaching of mathematics. In the early years' curriculum teaching is guided by Early Learning Goals, which mirror the reception Learning Objectives in the National Strategy framework. Mathematics equips pupils with the uniquely powerful set of tools to understand and change the world. These tools include logical reasoning, problem solving skills and the ability to think in abstract ways. Mathematics is important in everyday life. It is integral to all aspects of life and with this in mind we endeavour to ensure that children develop a healthy and enthusiastic attitude towards mathematics that will stay with them.

We aim to provide the pupils with a mathematics curriculum which will produce individuals who are literate, creative, independent, inquisitive, enquiring and confident. We also aim to provide a stimulating environment and adequate resources so that pupils can develop their mathematical skills to their full potential.



Lessons follow the Strategy's format with a mental/oral starter, a main teaching activity and a plenary session. At Prospect Vale we teach mathematics with the aid of *a variety of scheme resources* (E.G. *Collins*) from reception, key stage 1 and key stage 2.

The teaching of mathematics at Prospect Vale provides opportunities for:

- Group work
- Individual work
- Paired work
- Whole class teaching

Pupils engage in:

- The development of mental strategies
- The development of written methods
- Practical work
- Investigational work
- Problem solving
- Mathematical discussion
- Consolidation of basic skills and number facts

Teaching time: To provide adequate time for developing numeracy skills each class teacher delivers a daily mathematics lesson. This may vary in length but usually lasts for about 45 minutes in key stage 1 and 50-60 minutes in key stage 2. Links will also be made to mathematics within other subjects so pupils can develop and apply their mathematical skills.

ICT plays an important role in the teaching of mathematics and is used in various ways to support teaching and motivate pupils' learning. ICT will involve the use of interactive whiteboards, computers, calculators and audio-visual aids. They will, however, only be used in a daily mathematics lesson when it is the most efficient and effective way of meeting the lessons objectives. Our children have access to '**Mathletics**,' I-PAD APPS and enrichment on our school website. We also use 'Numicon' throughout our school.



Science

Science is about exploring, discovering and investigating the world around us. At Prospect Vale it is taught in all year groups, in ways appropriate to the age of the pupils. There are four areas of study - *scientific enquiry, life processes and living things, materials and their properties and physical processes*. Each area of the curriculum is covered in each year group. In key stage 1 there may be a more topic based approach to the subject whilst in key stage 2 it is taught as a separate subject when necessary, though it is preferably linked with other areas of the curriculum. Pupils learn about ways of carrying out investigations and how to record their findings. We seek to stimulate the pupils' curiosity and imagination as well as encouraging safe and efficient use of practical apparatus.

Information and Communications Technology (Computing)

The study of ICT takes place in each year group. All pupils have access to our suite of networked computers and a range of other multi-media PCs situated in classrooms. The school has a comprehensive range of software which covers the National Curriculum expectations and is aimed at developing word processing skills, presentation and data handling skills. We place much emphasis on using ICT to develop skills in, and learn about, other subjects. Pupils have controlled access to the Internet to investigate information and programs which support their learning in all curriculum subjects. Facilities were completely updated in August 2010. Mobile devices are increasingly being used. Children increasingly use mobile technology to support the Computing Curriculum.



Religious Education

R.E. forms part of the core curriculum for all pupils and conforms to the Stockport LEA Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education- 'Learning for Life.' At key stage 1 the religion studied is predominantly Christianity, with elements of other religions. At key stage 2, Christianity, Islam and Judaism are studied.

A daily *Collective Act of Worship* takes place either as a whole school or in smaller groups. To encourage community links and share different thoughts and values, members from local churches and faiths are invited to take part in the leadership of collective worship. Trips to churches, synagogues and mosques take place.

** Parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from religious worship or teaching in the school after discussions with the Headteacher.*

Personal, Social & Health Education and Citizenship

Our Policy and Scheme of Work has recently been revised to take into account the new Government guidelines on citizenship. This area of the curriculum is covered informally as issues arise and also in designated time which may include 'circle time'. Where appropriate, PHSE is linked with other areas of the curriculum. The subject matter falls into four areas:

- developing confidence and responsibility and making the most of their responsibilities;
- preparing to play an active role as citizens;
- developing a healthy lifestyle;
- developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people.

All issues are dealt with sensitively and in the context of family life. Where relationships Education is of a sensitive nature, in upper key stage 2, parents are kept informed and reminded that they have a right to withdraw pupils if they wish.

Music

The aim of music at the school is to develop the pupils' ability to listen to and appreciate a wide variety of music and to make judgments about musical quality. Pupils are actively involved in different forms of music making and enjoy singing and performing, both individually and as a school, as well as listening to recorded music, performances by other pupils and visiting musicians.

The work of the curriculum is supported by optional instrumental tuition provided by teachers from the LEA's Peripatetic Music Service and by voluntary extra-curricular activities. Each class has a composer focus.

Children in KS2 have the opportunity to learn and play a brass instrument. Many play at the Bridgewater Hall with the Hallè orchestra. Children also learn to play the Ukulele and the recorder.

Art

Creativity/ Topic work forms the core of the art curriculum in key stage 1. In key stage 2 there is a more flexible approach utilising both *artistic and technical* strands and a thematic approach. The art scheme of work is currently being reviewed focusing upon skills.

A central store has been established for specific occasionally utilised resources to supplement the good level of key resources which are located in each classroom. Each class has an artist focus. The school holds Artsmark Gold Status.

Geography

At Prospect Vale, the knowledge, skills and understanding requirements are set out under the four key aspects of geography;

- Geographical Enquiry and Skills
- Knowledge and Understanding of places
- Knowledge and Understanding of patterns and processes
- Knowledge and Understanding of environmental change and sustainable development

Geography also makes a distinctive contribution to:

- place study;
- physical and human processes;
- people – environment relationships;
- geographical enquiry and fieldwork;
- working with maps and images;
- Investigating the links between people and physical environments.

History

Pupils at Prospect Vale will undertake historical studies according to the requirements of the National Curriculum and the DfE documentation. Transport links many topics (e.g. railways/canals).

The teaching of history helps to provide a sense of time, sequence, change and chronology. Apart from local studies of both Heald Green and Stockport, the main historical themes/units which our pupils currently investigate are: The Mayan Civilisation, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greeks, Stone-Age to Iron-Age, Romans, Vikings, Anglo Saxons, children in World War 2, homes from the past, seaside holidays in the past, Fire of London, Toys in the past, homes and famous people. This is evolving with increased topic work.

Physical Education

All Prospect Vale pupils participate in a wide variety of physical activities. This includes carefully planned PE lessons in curriculum time and activities lead by our Year 6 sports and playleaders in playtimes and lunchtimes.

Throughout their time at Prospect Vale, pupils take part in PE lessons involving gymnastics, dance & musical movement, athletics and a

large range of ball games involving netball, hockey, cricket, football, tennis and lacrosse. Key Stage 2 children have swimming lessons. The School is extremely well resourced with excellent quality equipment and has good facilities including a large indoor hall, outside hard court playgrounds and a very large field. In 2014, 2 'Activity walls' were permanently installed in our upper playground therefore allowing our children to always have access to cricket, football and netball goals.

Design And Technology

In this subject staff use a combination of *DATA*, *QCA* schemes of work and topic work. Each unit is assessed on completion and evaluation sheets are kept as an ongoing record of achievement.

Each year group covers a range of skills and subject matter including work with reclaimed materials, textiles and food.

Child Protection

Due to the frequency of contact with children, schools are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour, or failure to develop. Parents should be aware, therefore, that where it appears to a member of school staff that a child may have been abused, the school is required, as part of the Stockport Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures, to report their concern to the Social Services Department immediately.

The Child Protection Officer is Mr P.McDowell (Headteacher)

Medical Screening

The School Nursing Team carries out a health screening programme for height, weight, vision and hearing for pupils in their first year at Prospect Vale. Some pupils are then offered a Health Interview with the School Nurse. Where necessary, some pupils are offered a School Medical with the School Doctor. Parents are always invited and consent is required.

The School Nurse is happy to support parents with advice and information on any health or school related issue.

Medical Policy

Medicines will not be administered by members of staff to children except in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Headteacher. If permission is given, a letter from the parents is also

required and an appropriate form is to be filled in by the parents.
This form is held in the school office.

Inhalers are retained by the class teachers and children will administer treatment to themselves as required. If the asthma attack is serious we will ring for an ambulance and inform the parents immediately. A trained first aider will accompany the child to hospital.

Parents of children who develop an allergy must inform the school. Any child with an unusual condition or serious allergy (anaphylactic reaction) must have their medication stored in a cupboard in the teacher's workroom or with the class teacher.

- **ONLY prescribed medication can be administered to children on residential visits.**

The teacher in charge of Medical Needs is Mr S Papadopoulos. He liaises with Mrs Carter (Business Manager.)

School Travel Plan

For the purpose of this Prospectus, the main points from the Plan for new parents is that our preference is walking to and from the school by using the pedestrian gateways either on Brandon Avenue or Prospect Vale. For many of our families this mode is not viable, in light of this we ask that you either car share or park the car some distance from school in a safe, responsible manner and walk the rest of the way. Please show consideration and care for both members of our school community and local residents. We have worked with Stockport Homes to make improvements to the rear path. This has helped to alleviate congestion.

**Please avoid parking in the turning circle on Prospect Vale to allow emergency access at all times to our School and for our neighbours.
Please be aware of the restrictions imposed by the zig-zag lines outside our school. Police/Wardens do regularly visit our school.**

A Final Note

Having read this document I am sure that you will be more informed about our school, its philosophy, our active, yet caring atmosphere and its breadth of opportunities. If you need to know more, please contact the school and any additional queries or concerns will be answered.

The information included in this prospectus is written in good faith and is correct at the time of production. You will appreciate that many changes take place at the school during the year which may make some of the information out-of-date.

We look forward to sharing in the development of your unique and talented child. Together we will endeavor to prepare all young individuals in our care, for a worthwhile life of exciting adventures!

Paul McDowell

Headteacher