

Providence



Christian School

Handbook

2017/18

Introduction

This handbook aims to provide some basic information about Providence Christian School (formerly known as Lewis Independent Christian School) and we are happy to give you further details or discuss any queries that you have about the school and your child's education.

History: The LICS Story

At the end of 1998 a public meeting was held in Stornoway to raise the possibility of the founding of a Christian school. In 1999 a small number of interested parents prayerfully formed an executive committee and drew up a constitution. In August 1999 Lewis Independent Christian School opened in temporary accommodation with 9 pupils and a full time member of staff, Miss Morag MacDonald. Since 1999 there have been many difficulties and much still to do, but we have known God's blessing in many ways.

Our school is open to all who wish to give their children an education which does not exclude God from the main part of the day, but seeks to educate and nurture each child, both in character and intellect, to the glory of God. This is our mission statement.

Funding

The school is maintained financially by the contributions of parents and other interested individuals and groups. The school acknowledges the sovereignty of God in supplying all our needs. Further information is available to parents at the time of application for admission.

If you wish to make a donation then you may do so online through Charity Choice. Should you require further information or have any queries about funding or donations, please contact our treasurer who will be able to help you.

Gift Aid - If you are a UK tax payer please note that we are able to claim Gift Aid on your donation. If you send your donation electronically through Charity Choice you will be given the option to reclaim gift aid there, please select this so we can claim back an extra 25% of your donation from the government, thank you.

Staff

As well as teaching staff a number of friends and parents provide assistance in the classroom and office. There is also specialist support in Art, Gaelic, French, Science, Craft, History, IT, PE and Music. The school welcomes the active support of parents and other members of the community in contributing to the best possible education for our pupils.

Teaching staff:

Headteacher: Mr Mark Musty

Part-time teacher: Miss Dorothea Rieder

Mrs Mairi Tallach

Specialist staff/instructors:

Art: Mrs A.M. Henderson

Gaelic: Mrs A.M. Henderson

French: Mrs Roberta Craig

Music: Mrs Barbara Mackenzie

PE: Sports Centre Coaches

Mrs Dawn Davidson

Secretarial/admin: Miss Bethany Macleod

Admission Arrangements

Providence Christian School is an independent non-denominational Christian school open to all children whether from a Christian background or not. Parents wishing to enrol their children must first be interviewed by the Headteacher and a representative of the Board of Governors. All parents must accept that the school will be run and education provided in accordance with the statement of faith as contained in the Association's constitution.

Pre-School Induction

Towards the end of the summer term, we set aside some sessions when children, who are due to start school the following August, are invited to come into school to spend some time with the teacher in the classroom. They will be able to take part in a variety of activities and get to know the layout of the school. These sessions aim to ease the transition from home to school.

The School Day

School hours:

School day: 09:00 – 15:00

Morning break: 10:45 – 11:10

Lunch break: 12:30 – 13:15

Note: P1 only in school in mornings until Oct break. (0900-1230/1300)

Lunch

As we have no canteen facilities, pupils are required to bring a packed lunch from home. If your child has any special dietary requirements please let the school know-we occasionally have special treats. Children are encouraged to bring and use their plastic water bottles daily. (A snack for playtime is also advisable).

Emergency Closure

In exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to close the school at short notice and send pupils home e.g. particularly bad weather; electricity or water failure. Please make sure that the school is informed of any change of emergency contact numbers.

Curriculum

The school was founded on the principle that Christianity and Biblical truth must be central to the whole curriculum and not just be confined to the act of worship and Religious and Moral Education. The curriculum is governed by the Board, in consultation with teachers and parents.

Our curriculum is based on the Scriptural mandate:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength, and your neighbour as yourself."

Luke 10v27

This forms a strong clear biblical basis, defining education as one part of our duty to love our God. As a school therefore our aim is to develop this love in all aspects of our lives: emotional (heart), spiritual (soul), intellectual (mind), physical (strength) and social (neighbour).

All our subjects are taught from the starting point of Scripture. The book of Proverbs commands us to seek after knowledge. This is so that we might gain understanding, and ultimately, wisdom and discernment. At LICS we seek to instil in our students knowledge first; to build understanding around that knowledge, and, finally to hone and refine the skills and understanding acquired so as to be able to make wise decisions, discerning truth from falsehood.

"Curds and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Isaiah 7v15

We seek to provide an environment where a love of learning is developed and encouraged.

All areas of our daily routine are ultimately driven by a desire to honour the Lord. We strive to give our pupils the tools necessary to lead a life through which we can glorify, honour and enjoy God forever.

Our role is to sharpen the minds of our pupils, to teach them to think logically, methodically, deeply and critically. It is in learning deeply and thoroughly about each subject that we can best appreciate our awesome Creator God and learn to know Him better. Each pupil is unique and created with various gifts and talents and we seek to educate and nurture each child, both in character and intellect, to the glory of God . A serious and challenging education is not necessarily separate from a creative and enjoyable learning experience.

Providence Christian School desires to encourage in its pupils, through its teachers, an ever increasing joy in discovering the marvels of the world around us. It is our hope that our pupils will discover that there is much joy in learning.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the holy is understanding." Proverbs 9:10

Behaviour Policy

With a Biblical understanding that school and home work as a partnership under God, the school is committed to parental involvement in every aspect of school life.

The authority of parents and teachers is clearly upheld and pupil behaviour is expected to show respect for God, teachers, other adults and fellow pupils. A copy of the Behaviour Policy is available on request.

Sports/Outdoor Activities

Pupils attend swimming lessons for one/two terms. Usually these take place in the winter and spring terms. The pupils are given the opportunity to take part in a variety of sporting activities throughout the school year. These include Gymnastics, Athletics and Football. Moreover, active playtimes are strongly encouraged with an adult supervisor present at all times.

Bikeability: Stornoway Primary School have kindly granted our pupils in Primaries 6 and 7 access to this cycling training programme under the supervision of an Active Schools Coordinator .

Pupil Enterprise Group

The children have their own Enterprise Group account, which allows them to run their own fundraisers. To date they have had craft and baking stalls at our performances and at our Light Lunches.

School Clubs

Over the years we have had a Craft Club at the school (winter and spring terms). Team sports clubs are arranged periodically, in line with local competitions. Contact the school for more information.

Excursions

From time to time all stages of the school may take part in curricular excursions into the local environment. Amongst other things this may include a trip to the beach, the grounds of Lews Castle or the local hospital. Parents are always informed of these trips in advance.

Homework and Assessment

We aim to maintain a shared responsibility with parents for the education of our children.

Pupil portfolios, with samples of the children's work, are sent home to parents once in the autumn term, and then a second time in the spring term. After each portfolio is sent home, parents are invited to parent-teacher meetings to discuss their children's progress with teachers. Progress reports, with marks and teachers' comments are also sent home twice per school year. An interim progress report is sent home along with the second pupil portfolio, and a final progress report is sent out in the summer term, towards the end of the school year.

However, parents are encouraged to consult teachers at any time throughout the session if they are concerned about any aspect of their child's schooling.

We expect each pupil to take a Bible to school each day-this may be left in school.

The Bible version used in school is the New King James Version.

Attendance

Children are expected to be on time for school. Please inform the school if a child is to be absent because of illness or other circumstances.

Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to attend times of prayer and fellowship. They are also invited to attend our assemblies which take place at the beginning and end of each school term.

We have a school cleaning rota as well as a list of tasks which it is helpful for parents to get involved in. Included in this list is: classroom help, playground supervision, administrative work and school clubs. The Headteacher has further guidelines for classroom help. Moreover, the Board Information Document enclosed in our Parent Pack outlines how the Providence Christian School Group or Team system operates.

We gladly welcome and value all help and support we receive from our parents.

Medical Services

Parents should inform the school of any relevant medical history such as for example asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, allergy of which the teachers should be aware.

Health Board staff carry out a programme of examination for pupils in P1. Parents will be informed in advance of this inspection and asked for their consent. They will also be invited to attend.

'Childsmile' fluoride treatment (NHS Scotland) is offered to all our pupils.

The Board, in consultation with parents and in response to their desires, have agreed that Sex Education be not formally taught in the classroom, but that suitable material be made available to parents, for them to use, as they deem appropriate, with their own children at home. Parents should contact the Headteacher for a list of the materials available.

School Uniform

The school colours are green and grey/black. The items that make up the uniform are as follows:

Girls

Boys

Grey /black skirt or pinafore

Grey/black trousers

White blouse

White shirt

Green pullover

Green pullover

School tie

School tie

Summer: green gingham dress (optional)

Ties can be bought at the school and pullovers ordered from Tesco Direct. All items of clothing should have the child's name attached.

Gym Kit : T-shirt/polo shirt, shorts, socks and gym shoes(no football strips please; pupils should not wear clothing with slogans)

On Gym days pupils are advised to wear their kit under their uniform (no shirt and tie).

N.B. On the rare occasion of exceptionally cold weather girls shall be permitted to wear trousers

School Board

Office bearers are as follows:

Chairman:	Mrs Anne Marie Henderson
Secretary:	Rev G Craig
Treasurer:	Mr A Mackenzie
Education Director:	Rev G MacDonald

More Information

News and prayer letters are issued twice a year in order to keep parents fully informed of all aspects of school life. Our supporters are also sent a copy. Our website www.lics.org.uk provides an additional source of information. If anyone wishes to see our school policies please enquire at the school office.

Our Secretary can be contacted at lochals@clara.net and our Treasurer at alan.mackenzie9c@hotmail.com

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