



MOUNT CHARLES SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL



Mount Charles motivates all and celebrates success.

We are a large, two form entry, family-centred school situated in the heart of the community in St. Austell. We are very proud of our school and work collaboratively to ensure excellent provision for all. We warmly welcome visitors so please do arrange a visit.

We are focused on supporting our children through an exciting, enriched primary experience. Our priority is to ensure that children are safe, happy and eager to come to school every day. We work together to ensure that children achieve

academically but we also firmly believe in a rounded education that celebrates all children's strengths and achievements.

Mount Charles is proud to be part of Cornwall Education Learning Trust (CELT). We work closely with other local schools, whilst continuing to build on the values and ethos that contribute to us being a popular and successful school.

We have a fantastic, experienced staff team who are committed to ensuring all succeed. We are proud of how willing our staff are to ensure that Mount Charles pupils receive nothing less than the very best education, nurture and wider opportunities.

At Mount Charles, we are proud to offer an exciting curriculum which is designed to engage children in purposeful learning; making links between subjects through half termly imaginative learning projects. Furthermore, we recognise that all children are unique and place great value on the importance of providing opportunities for them to flourish in areas where they have a special talent.

At Mount Charles, we feel privileged to be the guardians of your child's primary education.

We are committed to equipping each and every pupil with the skills, knowledge and attitudes that will help them succeed in life.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Mount Charles!



'Together, you form an effective team with high expectations at your core.'

Ofsted Good, May 2019

AT MOUNT CHARLES

We have a pupil admission number of 60 children each year.
Our admissions policy can be found on our website.

At Mount Charles we have:

- High expectations for all
- A safe, caring and happy environment
- Active, creative and purposeful learning
- A positive presence in our wider community
- A community which co-operates, cares and shares.





EYFS

Early years forms the foundations of your child's ongoing education and that is why we passionately believe in making a child's first years in school as stimulating, memorable and inspiring as possible.

Our environment is exceptionally well equipped for both indoor and outdoor 'learning through play' activities and the children have direct access to the outdoor area, which they use throughout the year. They are encouraged to decide where they work and learn. Our dedicated staff work hard to ensure every child feels secure and happy.

We ensure every child is able to explore their unique self, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

We pride ourselves on our positive relationships, enabling all children to be strong and independent through caring and secure relationships with our staff. We endeavour to create an environment that enables a child to stretch their thinking and explore new learning according to their individual needs. There is a strong partnership between



practitioners and parents and carers.

We fully understand that children develop and learn in different ways and we provide education and care for all children in early years, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. We are proud of our inclusive ethos.

Teaching and learning ensures that the opportunities to explore key skills are provided through an exciting and supportive environment and a carefully planned curriculum. This is

informed by the children's interests and ensures they are active participants in their learning and development.

A balance of adult directed and child initiated activities take place both in the classroom and outside in the secure outdoor learning area. Observation of play by all adults supports the curriculum and informs the next steps in their learning. Building on what the children already know and understand enables them to develop and make progress at their own pace so that they can continue to enjoy learning.



We know that having great relationships with parents and carers is critical for your child's success in school. We have an open door policy and communicate what your children have been learning regularly through Tapestry - an online learning journal. We hold termly parent consultations and send a written report home during the summer term.

Before the children start, there are several opportunities to visit their new learning environment and staff in the school. The children are visited at home by two of the EYFS Team and parents are invited to an Open Evening to find out about life at school before commencing their all-important 'first day'.

The Early Years framework is split into seven areas. The three prime areas of learning that underpin everything in the early years:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

The four specific areas help children to strengthen and apply the prime areas:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

All of those areas of learning are connected together. The characteristics of effective teaching and learning weave through them all. This is because children in the early years are becoming more powerful learners and thinkers. These characteristics develop as they learn to do new things, acquire new skills, develop socially and emotionally, and become confident communicators.

**‘Children in the early years
make strong progress.’**

Ofsted Good May 2019.





OUR CURRICULUM

We develop and enrich the National Curriculum to ensure an exciting, engaging and meaningful primary education.

**‘The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.’
(Dr Seuss)**

It is our mission to ensure every child is a fluent reader by the end of Key Stage 1, therefore early reading is our priority. Pupils are taught daily by a Read, Write Inc. (RWI) teacher in groups organised by stage, not age. In addition, 10 minutes daily one to one sessions take place to ensure that all pupils ‘keep up not catch up’. Pupils are assessed half termly, progressing rapidly through the programme.

Books taken home are matched to pupils’ RWI group therefore sounds and words read at home are decodable and read with success, ensuring a positive home reading experience. Parents are not asked to teach their child to read but instead are asked to support the school in fostering a love of reading. RWI parent guides and helpful information are shared at parent sessions and on our school website.

‘Pupils make strong progress from their starting points and demonstrate a love of reading.’

Ofsted Good May 2019.

Whole class reading (WCR) texts linked to half termly imaginative learning projects (ILP) are read daily as a class. Knowledge and skills are explicitly taught through a structured, daily whole class reading lesson. Broadening vocabulary is a key focus for our pupils and so this

is a key component of the WCR approach.

As pupils begin their key stage 2 journey, many more opportunities to read independently, for pleasure and for knowledge are introduced into the curriculum. Our 'Accelerated Reader' programme aides monitoring of progress and guides key stage 2 teachers and pupils to the appropriate level text based on high challenge, low threat quizzes taken by pupils to check they have understood what they have read. In addition, our MCS 'Reading Spine' provides six age appropriate must-read

texts (EYFS – Y6) which pupils are explicitly signposted to throughout the year. Reading remains a high priority curriculum area as your child progresses through the school.

'You have placed reading at the heart of the school's curriculum, identifying its importance so pupils have access to the breadth of the subjects on offer.'

Ofsted Good May 2019.



Teachers use mastery approaches to teaching maths throughout the school using practical resources. We focus on developing fluency, reasoning and problem solving.

Your child can look forward to an expertly crafted series of imaginative learning projects as they progress from year to year. At the heart of each project is a carefully chosen text through which key vocabulary and knowledge will be explored. Learning will be brought to life at every opportunity through connections made between writing, science, history, geography, art and design technology.

Children and parents alike, are invited to immerse themselves in the excitement of learning through the many home learning opportunities connected to the learning in school.

Learning resources are invested in well at Mount Charles. Lessons are enriched through a wealth

of hands on practical work and resourced with high quality technology provision including a designated IT suite and an abundance of laptops, surface go's and iPads for all ages.

We are extremely proud to be able to offer specialist sport and music teaching at Mount Charles. All children access at least two hours of PE every week. Children also swim regularly in KS2 and we have outstanding success ensuring that the vast majority of children can swim 25 metres or more by the end of Year 6. We believe strongly in outdoor adventurous education and offer residential trips and other outdoor activities throughout KS2.

Though we take very seriously the responsibility we have for ensuring your child leaves us with the key core skills necessary for them to access their secondary education, we also place great value on nurturing the 'whole child'.



With this in mind, you can be sure that your child will also leave Mount Charles having had the opportunity to immerse themselves in broader experiences including representing the school in sporting events, learning to play a variety of musical instruments, performing for an audience, exploring what it means to be green fingered, canoe local rivers, coasteer along our beautiful Cornish coastline and so much more...

‘You have established a clear vision for the school, underpinned by a ‘no excuses’ culture. You are adamant that pupils have, at least, a good quality of education.’

Ofsted Good May 2019.



OUR UNIFORM

We pride ourselves on having a smart uniform

WHITE POLO SHIRT

*Infants – all year, Juniors –
summer term only*

WHITE SHIRT AND SCHOOL TIE

*Juniors – autumn and spring
term, polo option in summer*

MOUNT CHARLES V-NECK JUMPER OR CARDIGAN

GREY / WHITE SOCKS

GREY TROUSERS / SHORTS OR GREY SKIRT / PINAFORE DRESS

*Trousers should be of a
traditional school style:
exaggerated styles or
leggings are unacceptable*

*Blue and white gingham
summer dress during the
summer term*

BLACK SCHOOL SHOES

no trainers







PE KIT

to be kept in school all week

Mount Charles T-Shirt
Black Shorts
Trainers

SWIMMING

Trunks
Not baggy shorts

**One-piece Swimming
Costume**
No bikinis

JEWELLERY

For safety's sake, children should not wear jewellery in school. Watches are permitted at your own risk.

If earrings have to be worn, because they have recently been pierced, then children must wear studs only. These will have to be removed or taped over by the child during PE.

Long hair must be tied back at all times throughout the school day.

THE SCHOOL DAY

ALL YEAR GROUPS

8:30am

Children welcomed into Class

8:45am

School Day Starts

3:00pm

End of the Day





PASTORAL CARE AT MOUNT CHARLES

We pride ourselves on our nurturing ethos which enables all children to feel safe and happy in school. We have high expectations of behaviour and work collaboratively with parents to ensure that all children can succeed. We offer a wide range of support to children and their families.

We offer an open door policy, ensuring that we are approachable at all times. Staff

welcome children and families at the start and end of the school day. We invite parents to year group welcome meetings at the start of each academic year to discuss the curriculum and the important part you can play in your child's learning.

We also offer formal parent consultation sessions during the school year and teachers produce an annual written school report.





'Staff are vigilant when recognising concerns about pupils' welfare.'

Ofsted May 2019.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs including a variety of sports, music, choir and cookery during lunchtimes and after school, 3 - 4pm, every day. Each term we vary the timetable.

We also offer a variety of peripatetic musical instrument lessons.



CHARLIE'S WRAP AROUND CHILDCARE

Breakfast Club

7:45 - 8:30am
(Breakfast included)

After School Club

3:00 - 5.30pm
(Snack included)



MOUNT CHARLES

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