



**Lord Deramore's
Primary School**

Nurturing learners for life

Our Prospectus



Welcome to our school

Lord Deramore's Primary School is a popular school for children aged 4-11 years old, with a well-deserved reputation for providing a creative, diverse and inclusive primary education. Situated next to the University of York, we pride ourselves on our strong academic and multicultural links with the local area.

If you are interested in seeing for yourself what makes Lord Deramore's so special, please take a look at our website and social media accounts which give a flavour of the vibrant primary education



our children experience. We would also warmly encourage you to arrange a visit by contacting the school office on 01904 553890.

James Rourke | Headteacher



I would like to welcome parents and children to our wonderful school. Under the excellent leadership of James and his team, our aim is to offer a caring and nurturing setting and a wide-ranging and stimulating education to equip the children well for their futures. As a governing body, we work hard to promote the ethos of the school and work in partnership with families, staff and the local community to enable our children "to be the best they can be." **Richard Frost** | Chair of Governors

Our ethos

We want to give all our children a well-rounded, enriched and safe primary education in which our overriding philosophy and genuine aspiration is to 'nurture learners for life'.

We want our children to leave Lord Deramore's having

a genuine love for learning and passion for life in general. Alongside this, we believe in teaching our children to have sound core values with an emphasis on respect for others, mutual understanding and a celebration of diversity.

In today's national landscape, too many schools place an unhealthy focus on test results and leagues tables to the detriment of a well-rounded primary education. Whilst we acknowledge that government testing is part of the curriculum, test results are not at the heart of our work.

We are against schools becoming 'exam factories' and

place creativity, enjoyment and holistic child development at the centre of what we do.

Our aims

Striving to be the best we can be – Nurturing learners for life.

We aim to:

- Give all children the opportunity to fulfil their intellectual and social potential.
- Provide a happy, challenging and rewarding learning environment for all.
- Ensure equality of opportunity in our diverse community.
- Promote qualities of self-discipline, respect for others and positive attitudes to learning and each other.

"I get to see all my best friends every day! I really love playing sport too so I go to football and hockey club after school."



A brief history of Lord Deramore's Primary School

Dating back to 1795, Lord Deramore's Primary School has served the local community in Heslington, York, for over two centuries. Built on land donated by Henry Yarbrough, the Lord of the Manor of Heslington, the school was originally based in the old school house across the road from the current school site. It moved to the Victorian building on School Lane in 1856.

Since 2017, the school has been located in a modern, £3-million building on the same site. We are very pleased with our new 21st century learning environment but are equally proud of our wonderful history and links to the Deramore family, a member of which still sits on our governing body to this day.

"Everybody is so friendly.
They made me feel
so welcome when I
came to England."

Our children

Lord Deramore's is proud to be one of the most diverse primary schools in the local region, with over sixty nationalities represented in a school of just over two hundred children. At our school, children always come first. We pledge to them that:

- They should have the opportunity to experience a wide range of cultural, sporting, creative and artistic pursuits.
- They should be gradually introduced to formalised learning and have plenty of opportunities for play, exploration and simply being a child.

- Their emotional and mental wellbeing should always come first.
- They will be treated as individuals who learn in different ways and at different paces.

The children at Lord Deramore's have a strong voice through the School Council which aims to improve the school for all. We want all our children to be happy, supported, fulfilled and confident to be the best they can be.



"Three quarters of parents responded to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Parent View. They were unanimous in their belief that the school is well led and managed and all would recommend your school to other parents."

Ofsted February 2018

Our curriculum

We are passionate about immersing our children in a well-rounded primary curriculum. All of our children:

- Experience a wide range of extra-curricular pursuits. We offer clubs every night after school and regularly compete in competitions and tournaments with other local primary schools. Clubs include: chess, arts and craft, cookery, STEM (science, technology,

engineering and maths), dance and several sports.

- Regularly take part in educational visits to museums, theatres, art galleries and places of cultural interest. Our Year 6 pupils also have the opportunity to go on an annual residential visit.
- Learn to read music and play an instrument. All children learn to play the violin and we offer peripatetic tuition in several different instruments including piano, violin and guitar. We are one of just two schools in the city to have a primary school orchestra and also have our very own rock band which performs annually at our 'Derafest' rock concert.
- Develop a love for outdoor learning, nature and the world around them. Our children love our Forest School sessions, which happen in all classes throughout the school and are not solely experienced by



the younger children. Each year, we have an outdoor learning week in which the entire school spends the week learning outside in tents, our large school grounds and our impressive forest area.

- Gain confidence in using technology so that they are well equipped for the future. Our children regularly use Chromebooks, laptops and Google Classroom which promotes independent research and collaborative working.
- Receive specialist teaching in French, music, computing and physical education by expert teachers in their field.
- Learn to celebrate their uniqueness and the diversity of a global, modern and vibrant society.
- Develop into well-rounded individuals, with skills and attitudes which cannot necessarily be measured by a government test or assessment.

Our classes

At Lord Deramore's, we have organised our classes into age-appropriate phases rather than the traditional Key Stages seen in most schools across the country. We have organised our seven classes in a way which promotes a more gradual introduction to formalised learning, mirroring the approach taken by many high performing international education systems.

PHASE 1 Early Years and Year 1. We believe that young children learn best through play and following their own interests. In Phase 1, children develop the skills and attitudes needed to become successful lifelong learners. Our key focus in this phase is to ensure children have the emotional and social skills to do well in school and to secure their basic skills in reading, writing and number in a fun and child-centred way.



PHASE 2 Years 2 and 3.

The children in this phase are gradually introduced to more formalised learning and teaching styles, whilst not forgetting that they are still young children who benefit from play and exploration.

PHASE 3 Years 4, 5 and 6.

In this phase, children are exposed to more formal teaching and secure the attitudes, skills and knowledge needed to excel academically as they move towards secondary education.

We have seven classes within the school, one for each year group. We do not have any mixed age classes and the children who join us move through the school with their classmates, forming strong friendship bonds which last throughout their time with us.



Forest Schools

Forest Schools is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning which encourages and inspires individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences.

At Lord Deramore's, we are very lucky to house one of the most impressive primary forest school areas in the city and have several teachers who are forest school specialists. Through practical hands-on activities, our children develop skills within the forest that cannot necessarily be taught in the classroom, such as managing risks and developing their physical skills.

Forest Schools give children opportunities to follow their own interests, learn new skills, work well as part of a group and appreciate the beauty of the world around them.

"All the teachers are really kind and friendly. They help me with my work or if I'm stuck."

Our staff

We have a dedicated team of skilled, experienced professionals led by our headteacher, James Rourke. Each phase is led by a Phase Leader, who ensures that the children are following the national curriculum but in a style of teaching and learning that we feel is distinctive to Lord Deramore's.

All staff are committed to ensuring that every pupil receives a well-rounded primary education which is not purely focused on test results.

We have an excellent reputation for inclusion and special educational needs provision. We are one of only a handful of schools in the area to have a dedicated non-classroom-based Inclusion Leader who supports not only

our children with special needs but their families too. We are extremely proud to be an adoption-friendly school.

For many of our children, English is not their first language so we have a number of skilled Teaching Assistants who specialise in working with them.

Our staff follow a programme of continuous professional development and share best practice both with colleagues at Lord Deramore's and at other schools in the area. We have several international partnerships, including links with Norway and France, and have adopted an 'outward looking' approach to researching effective teaching practice from across the globe.



"You, your staff and governors are determined that pupils will learn through a stimulating curriculum, which gives them exposure to a wide range of subjects and experiences. Consequently, pupils are excited about learning and demonstrate excellent learning behaviours." Ofsted, February 2018



"We get to go to play in our Forest School in the woods where it is peaceful and magical. We've even got our own Gruffalo and tree house."

Our community

Nearly half of our families have links with the university, with one or both parents working or studying there.

Our children benefit from working with the university both in terms of resources and

pupil experiences including science, engineering, robotics and music. We are proud to be one of the most diverse primary schools in the local region, with over sixty nationalities represented within our school family.

After leaving Year 6, the vast majority of our pupils move to either Archbishop Holgate's or Fulford School, both of which are outstanding secondary schools. Some also move onto local independent schools. We have strong relationships with all feeder schools and work proactively with them around transition from primary to secondary.

We have highly effective working relationships with numerous primary schools

across the city and regularly work on collaborative projects to benefit the children of Lord Deramore's and York in general.

Lord Deramore's supports working families by offering wrap-around care during term time on site. Breakfast club is available from 8am and after-school provision is available until 5.45pm.

We foster strong relationships between home and school as we see this as a vital key to unlocking each child's potential. Our Parent-Teacher Association is highly visible within school and supports our work through many annual events and projects.

By working together, we aim to provide the very best start in life for all of our children.



Admissions

You should apply for your child to start primary school by the City of York Council's deadline (usually the January in the school year in which your child turns four). Late applications can be made after the council's January deadline, although these may be looked at after other applications.

Admissions to Lord Deramore's Primary School are dealt with by the admissions team at City of York Council. For any queries about the City of York admissions policy or process, you can call **01904 551554** or email **education@york.gov.uk**

Our school admissions policy and information on requesting

a place in year groups other than Reception can be found on our website: **www.lordderamores.com/about-us/key-information/policies**

Lord Deramore's is one of the most popular primary schools in the local area. Our latest Ofsted report stated that 100% of parents would recommend the school to others.

The locality of applicants differs enormously each year; some years we gain families from over five miles away on the other side of York, other years they will be nearer to our school. As such, we advise you to list as many schools as possible on your application form and rank them clearly in



preferential order. City of York Council will always try and give you your first preference school and will work down your list in order of preference. Individual schools do not find out how you ranked them.

If you would like to visit Lord Deramore's, you would be very welcome! Please contact us on **01904 553890** to arrange a visit.





Lord Deramore's Primary School
School Lane, Heslington, York YO10 5EE

Headteacher
Mr James Rourke BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

🏠 www.lordderamores.com ☎ 01904 553890 🐦 @lordderamores ✉ lordderamores.primary@york.gov.uk