



CARING ABOUT LEARNING.  
PROUD TO SHINE.

# 2010 PROSPECTUS



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We view education as a joint venture,  
involving everyone  
- children, parents, staff, governors,  
the wider community and even  
international volunteers.  
Our aim is providing the best  
for every child



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear parents/guardians:

On behalf of all the children, staff and governors, I would like to warmly welcome you to Grace Public School.

Our school always likes to celebrate success - at every level. The life of the school is driven by enthusiasm and a desire to achieve. We aim to bring learning alive, making it exciting and stimulating.

We want to give our children a thirst for learning that remains with them throughout their future school experiences and their lives. An essential ingredient for this to happen is teamwork.

We view education as a joint venture, involving everyone - children, parents, staff, governors, the wider community and even international volunteers. We hope that we will be able to depend on your co-operation and support in this partnership, hoping that together we can provide the best for every child.

This prospectus has been created to answer as many questions as possible that might be asked about our school. We hope it will alleviate any anxieties that children (or parents) may have when joining us. With a talented team of both teaching and non-teaching staff, we are confident that we can provide a smooth transition for any child joining the school and we strive to meet the needs of all students.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you!

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs. Hajira Bano**  
**Principal**

# SCHOOL INFORMATION

## General overview

- Pupils on roll: 107 in December 2009
- Type and age range: Junior Primary School, ages 3-11 (ages 4-11 in December 2009)
- Principal: Mrs. Hajira Bano
- Chair of Governors: Mr. Khadim Hussain
- School hours: 08:00 AM –14:00 PM

## Educational aims for our school

“Caring about learning, proud to shine!”

## Vision

A caring learning community where all children are happy and well motivated; they will be challenged and achieve high standards through a fun and enriched curriculum.

We want a school community where all students have equal access to learning opportunities and enjoy growing and learning together.

## Aims

**Contribution** from all members of the school community will be valued and recognized to promote quality education for all.

**Challenge:** We aim to promote challenge through high expectations for learning and behavior.

**Creativity** is a strong focus, ensuring that school is fun! The school will be a bright, attractive, stimulating place to learn.

**Community:** We value parents and school governors as our partners in education and will involve them, and the wider community, in the life of the school.

**Caring:** Children will be happy and secure and their achievements will be celebrated and valued by all.

**Consistency:** The school will grow and change, but we will remain true to our vision.

**Communication:** We realize the importance of efficient, effective communication. Everyone must feel that they have opportunities for consultation and will be kept well informed.

# ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

## History and design

The school opened in April 2007 with 32 children. We spent two terms in temporary accommodation in a very old home and moved into our brand new building in April 2009.

Our building is fantastic! The design incorporates the latest thinking in planning, layout and building standards. We are thankful to our coordinating partner organization - Himalayan Green Club Japan - and to the Japanese People for their generous support to construct a beautiful school building in Astana Skardu. This is the first earthquake-proof building ever designed and constructed in Gilgit Baltistan.

Our new school building includes five separate classrooms, a library, a junior group room for students as well as for teachers, and a practical lab for science, art and cookery.

There is a hall and an office for administration. Outside, we have asphalt and soft play areas all around the fruit trees; a lush green, beautiful community garden; the high mountainous series of Himalayas and Karakoram; and a games court in front of the school building. Our staff, students and parents are very active in developing the school grounds.

As a new school, we benefit from having the very latest educational equipment, furniture and resources. Every classroom has an interactive whiteboard.

## Governance and Management

Grace Public School is managed by the Board of Directors of Grace Association Pakistan in collaboration with the Village Education Committee (VEC), comprised of parents, village elders and social workers and coordinated by the Principal of the school.

## Location

The School is located in the centre of Union Council Shagari Khurd, Astana Skardu at the main road at a distance of 4 km in the east to Skardu main city and 8 km in the west to Skardu Airport.

## Building

An earthquake-proof and custom made building with spacious, airy and well-lit classrooms was construct-



ed in 2008 through funding from the Government of Japan, in coordination with Himalayan Green Club (HGC) Japan.



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# ADMISSION

Grace Public School is a co-education school for boys and girls from 3 – 11 years of age and is maintained by Grace Association Pakistan. We have set criteria for admission when offering places. Admission to the school is open for Nursery to 5th Classes beginning in March for the next academic year.

Places are allocated according to the published criteria which are, in priority order:

- Parental wishes
- Current family association, i.e. a sibling in the infant school at the time of entry
- Health reasons (for which a medical certificate may be required)
- Nearness of the child's home and ease of access to school

## Requirements

The following documents (one copy each) are required at the time of admission:

- Form B
- School Leaving Certificate (except class nursery)
- Admission form fully completed

Forms are available at Grace Public School Office as well as at the Grace Association website.

## Class organization

Our standard admission number each year is 30. The school currently has capacity for 250 students.

The average number of students per class is 25-30.

## School academic year

The academic year is divided into three terms:

- 1st Term: March – May
- 2nd Term: June – August
- 3rd Term: September – December

The School is closed for the summer vacation for 20 days, from 16th July to 5th August.

After the third and final term, the institution is closed for the winter vacation for approximately eleven weeks.



## School Times

Summer: 08:00 am to 14:00 pm

Winter: 09:00 am to 15:00 pm

## Uniform

Uniforms are purchased by parents/guardians. Parents are shown clothing samples by school staff and provided with recommendations for cloth shops and tailors at the market.

### For boys:

Shirt	Sky blue with full sleeves
Trouser	Grey
Sweater	Dark green
Socks	Black
Shoes	Black leather or joggers
Coat	Dark green (preferably leather)

### For girls:

Shirt	Sky blue
Shalwar	White
Sweater	Dark green
Socks	White
Shoes	Black shoes or joggers
Dopatta	White

## OUR TEAM

### *Principal*

Mrs. Hajira Bano

### *Vice Principal*

Ms. Maryam Wazir

### *Teaching Staff*

Ms. Maryam Wazir

Ms. Farzana Batool

Mr. Ghulam Nabi

Ms. Samina Batool

Mr. Tanveer Ahmad

Ms. Atia Batool

Ms. Aalia Batool

### *Office Team*

Mr. Muhammad Kazim

Mr. Muhammad Waseem

### *Support Staff*

Mrs. Amina Bibi

### **Board of Governors**

#### *Chair of Governors*

Mr. Khadim Hussain

#### *Board of Governors*

Mr. Muhammad Qasim

Mr. Shamshad Hussain

Mrs. Tahira Azam

Mrs. Zeban Ali Muhammad

Mr. Muhammad Hassan Sohrab

Mrs. Maryam Wazir Basharat

The Governing Body is responsible for the management and direction of the curriculum, school conduct and budget.

The Principal is accountable to the Governors for the internal organization and daily running of the school.

## CURRICULUM

We want all our children to experience success and enjoy their learning while at school. We aim to achieve this goal through high standards of learning and teaching within a happy, structured and caring environment.

The skills of true thinking—reasoning, creativity, judgment and memorization—allow individuals to grow intellectually. Our children are given the chance to perform these mental operations at an appropriate level for their development, adopting a High Scope educational approach. Based on the work of Swiss educational psychologist Jean Piaget, the High Scope approach views children as active learners, who learn best from activities they plan, carry out and reflect upon.

In the High Scope approach, the role of the educator is to plan activities based on the child's interest, facilitate learning through encouragement, and engage in positive adult-child interaction strategies. The concept of active learning comes from the belief that children learn best from personal interaction with ideas, direct experiences with physical objects and through applying logical thinking to these experiences.

The High Scope curriculum approach addresses the following areas of development:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication, language and literacy
- Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development, health and well-being
- Creative development

### **Personal, social and emotional development**

This area of development includes:

- Taking care of one's own needs
- Expressing feelings in words
- Having feelings of self-confidence and self-control
- Building relationships with other children as well as adults
- Creating and experiencing collaborative play
- Dealing with social conflict
- Gaining knowledge of understanding of one's culture

### **Communication, language and literacy**

Communication, language and literacy depend on the learner becoming competent in a number of key skills, together with having the confidence, opportunity, encouragement, support and motivation to use these skills.

This area of learning includes:

- Communication, speaking and listening in different situations and for different purposes
- Being read a wide range of books, reading simple texts and writing for a variety of purposes
- Encouragement to extend one's conversation (e.g. talking with others about personally meaningful experiences)
- Encouragement to describe objects, events, and relations
- Opportunities to imagine and recreate experiences
- Exploring situations, events and ideas
- Opportunities to have fun with language - such as listening to stories and poems and creating stories and rhymes
- Encouragement to develop reading in various ways: reading storybooks, signs and symbols and through one's own writing
- Writing in various ways, including drawing, scribbling, letter-like forms, invented spelling and conventional forms

### **Problem-solving, reasoning and numeracy**

This area of learning includes counting, sorting, matching, patterns, shapes, space and measure.

Mathematical understanding should be developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play, so that children enjoy using and experimenting with numbers. Children will be given opportunities for:



- Comparing attributes (longer/shorter, bigger/smaller)
- Arranging several things, one after another, in a series or pattern and describing the relationships (big/bigger/biggest, red/blue/red/blue)
- Comparing the numbers of things in two sets to determine "more," "fewer," "same number"
- Sorting and matching
- Arranging two sets of objects in one-to-one correspondence
- Counting objects
- Experiencing and describing positions, directions, and distances in the play space, building, and neighbourhood
- Interpreting spatial relations in drawings, pictures, and photographs
- Anticipating, remembering, and describing sequences of events

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### Knowledge and understanding of the world

In this area of learning children develop the crucial knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. This learning forms the foundation for later work in science, design technology, history, geography and information technology.

Children will be given opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world through firsthand experiences that will encourage exploration, observation, problem solving, prediction and decision making, supplemented by class discussion. Students will also experience a wide range of activities—both indoors and out—that will stimulate their interest and curiosity to learn.

### Physical development, health and well-being

Physical development in the early years is about improving skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. Physical development also has two other important aspects: it helps children gain confidence in what they can do and it enables them to feel the positive benefits of being healthy and active.

Children will be given opportunities to:

- Explore the space around them - both indoors and out- and to create and take part in activities that will assist their physical development
- Use anchored movement, such as: bending, twisting, rocking, swinging one's arms
- Use non-anchored movement, such as: running, jumping, hopping, skipping, marching, climbing
- Experience a wide range of equipment
- Use the language of movement alongside their actions (describing movement)
- Express creativity in movement
- Act upon movement directions
- Move in sequences to a common beat

### Creative development

Creativity is fundamental to successful learning. Being creative enables children to make connections between one area of learning and another, extending their understanding.

This area of learning includes art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play.

Children will be given opportunities to:



### Visual Art

- Relate models, pictures and photographs to real places and things
- Make models out of clay, blocks and other materials
- Draw and paint
- Express their own ideas

### Dramatic Art

- Imitate actions and sounds
- Pretend and role-play

### Music

- Sing songs
- Play simple musical instruments
- Move to music

Through a variety of teaching methods and strategies, we aim to instill children with an enthusiasm for learning. Teaching methods - ranging from whole class "chalk and talk" to individual, personalized programs of study - are chosen as appropriate to meet the task or skill being focused on.

Generally, our students are taught in their mixed ability class groupings, with all children studying the same area; however, work is appropriately differentiated (either simplified or extended) to match ability levels.

Each Year Team groups children by ability for math "sets", when the children work with their peers from other classes throughout the year.



## NEXT STEPS

The life of our school is motivated by enthusiasm and a desire to achieve. In collaboration with our school community - and including our online supporters across the globe- we are committed to providing a high quality education and meeting the learning needs of all students.

We hope you have found this introduction to our school and guide to our admissions process helpful. Should you have any additional questions about our school and curriculum, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to speaking with you and to welcoming your child into our school community!



Children will be given opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world through firsthand experiences that will encourage exploration, observation, problem solving, prediction and decision making





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