



PRIMARY PROSPECTUS

2018-19





Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Sir Harry Johnston International Primary School

Thank you for considering our school as the one to provide the very best educational opportunities for your child. As a school community, we would be thrilled to welcome you and relish the opportunity to nurture your child through their learning experience with us.

The school team is made up of children who are determined to be the best they can be and to be role models to those around them; a staff who demonstrate high levels of care and expertise; a Board which is committed to continuously move the school forward and a hard-working Parent Teachers' Association (Anzanthu) who work to raise funds and bring the school community together for fun. We encourage all parents to involve themselves in the life of the school and engage with the child's learning.

At Sir Harry Johnston there is a deeply embedded desire to enable every child to flourish in all areas; academic achievement, sporting prowess, artistic and musical performance, leadership and social awareness. We work tirelessly to address the individual needs of all children and ensure the highest level of inclusion.

We aim to provide an exciting and relevant curriculum, supported through dynamic teaching and resourcing, which will enable all pupils to fulfil and extend their potential. In addition to the skills and knowledge taught, we strive to develop independent thinkers, compassionate and active "movers and shakers", who will work to the benefit of others. Through weekly learning forums, School Council and house captains we are determined to hear the voice of the children and develop leadership capacity, to deal with the global and environmental issues of the time.

Please come and see for yourselves why we are so proud of our school and the children in it.

I would be delighted to show you around, share with you our future plans and offer the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

If you choose to send your child to Sir Harry Johnston International School they will be warmly welcomed and be able to quickly settle in our school community. We will be unswerving in our desire to offer you and your child the very best that we can.

Yours sincerely

James Elford
Principal



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Sir Harry Johnston International School. This prospectus should give you all the information you need about our school. For those who have already decided to send their children to us, it will tell you about the background of the school, its philosophy, the curriculum and how the school runs. For those who are considering our school as an option, we hope the information will help you come to an informed decision.

If you require any addition information about the school, please do not hesitate to contact us either in person, by telephone or email. We are always more than happy to welcome visitors.

General Information

Address:	Kalimbuka Road PO Box 52 Zomba Malawi
Telephone:	+265 1525280 (landline)
E-mail:	greatlearning@sirharryszomba.com
Website:	www.sirharryszomba.com
Type of school:	International School, Non-profit making Co-educational English medium
Principal	Mr James Elford
Chair of Board	Prof. Pascal Kishindo





SHJ Mission Statement

As a culturally and academically inclusive school, we strive to ensure the best possible education for children in Zomba, to international standard; encouraging the development of values and attitudes, skills and knowledge, that will “release the potential” in each individual, for the benefit of others, in an ever changing world.

As a school community of children, parents and staff our attitudes are underpinned by three keys to success (attitudes):

- Be determined
- Be the best you can be
- Be cool (taking a pride in ourselves and being in control of our choices)

Together we are working to develop learners who are:

High achievers by becoming engaged learners, who are prepared to take risks and give every element of learning the best of their efforts; finding enjoyment in what they do, with high expectations for and of themselves

Engaged thinkers who can think creatively and critically, seeing “the other perspective” and are able to help find solutions to problems they encounter: maturing into active participants rather than passive recipients

Community builders, who listen to those around them, work collaboratively for the common good and consistently see the best in others and seek to draw it out; recognising, accepting and celebrating cultural differences as appropriate

Clear communicators, who are practically literate, numerate and able to utilise modern technologies; able to generate, organise and evaluate their ideas, in order to make themselves understood, whilst allowing the space and time to consider the views of others.

Outward looking, valuing others, contributing as global citizens to the environmental and social issues of the day; developing and sharing their unique, creative talents with others freely and compassionately.



When the children evaluated the schools effectiveness, these were some of their comments:

"We learn how to swim at Sir Harry's." (Chimango – aged 5)

"The teachers take care of us." (Abel – aged 6)

"The teachers are really kind." (Saron – aged 6)

"We learn to be responsible." (Abudeen – aged 7)

"We discover new things." (Anaiah – aged 8)

"We all help each other." (Angela – aged 8)

"We encourage new children to be confident." (Chisomo – aged 8)

"Each and every day gets better and better." (Rehema – aged 8)

"Everyone follows the school's 'three keys to success'." (Muzzamil – aged 9)

"Every time someone new joins Sir Harry's, we greet them as a friend." (Joshua – aged 10)

"Every day we have something fun to do." (Mosteena – aged 10)

"We all work brilliantly together as a team." (Vuyo – aged 10)

"Everyone encourages each other." (Ale – aged 10)

"We all get along well." (Wandi – aged 10)

Background to the school

The school was founded in the early 1950s when Zomba was the capital of Nyasaland Protectorate. In the early 1970s the school became one of five 'designated schools' under an agreement with the British government that allowed the centrally funded, private schools to continue employing expatriate teachers. In the 1990s the Designated School Board was disbanded and the school became financially independent selecting to be controlled by a democratically elected board of trustees made up from the parent community.

Sir Harry's is a truly international school and at the same time nurtures the future leaders of Malawi. We have approximately 155 students on roll in the primary school representing around 15 different nationalities. Over 80% of the students on roll are Malawian.



School Day

The school day begins punctually at 7:30am. Children from Reception to Year 6 line up with their classes on the playground. Whereas, children in Pre-Nursery and Nursery go straight into their classrooms. At 10:00 your child has a 45-minute break to eat, drink and play with their friends. Pre-Nursery and Nursery Children should be collected from their classroom at 11:45. The rest of the primary school finish at 1:00 (unless they have clubs).

School facilities

The primary school consists of a Pre-Nursery and Nursery Class and Primary School enabling the school to cater for children between the ages of 2 and 11. It is centrally located with spectacular views of Zomba Plateau, which rises up to over 2000 metres.

It has seven fully equipped classrooms and a multi-purpose hall. All students have access to various ICT equipment including laptops (with internet access). Educational resources are purchased overseas if they are unavailable locally.

Within the spacious and beautifully landscaped grounds there is a twenty metre swimming pool, two 7-a-side football pitches, netball field, basketball court, nursery playground and a cross country track.



The curriculum

The curriculum is skills-based and shaped largely around the English curriculum – but adapted to meet the needs and interests of the school's Malawian context. The children enjoy a cross-curricular approach to learning through topics such as; Great Leaders, Water, Ancient Egypt, Our Local Environment, and Food, which allows for a deliberately and distinctly African flavour to learning. Lessons encourage independent and critical thinking through the use of think hats and maps, and the emphasis on collaborative learning. High quality teaching and, exciting and enthusiastic learning is guaranteed.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Primary School offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for children from Year 2 onwards. This includes sporting, musical, creative and artistic opportunities.



Homework

At Sir Harry Johnston International School, we feel that homework is important for extending school learning. The amount of homework the children receive will increase as they move throughout the primary school.

Admissions

Children are placed in year groups according to their age at the beginning of the academic year (1st September). We assess the children informally before they start at school, in order that we can give them the provision that they need. Admission can take place only after a completed application form has been submitted to the school, registration fee paid and a place has been formally offered. Whilst we endeavour to find a place at Sir Harry's for all children there may be occasion when a child is placed on a waiting list, if there are no places remaining in a particular class.

School fees

For information on tuition fees, please speak to the school administrator.

School meals

At break times our children have the option of eating either a hot or cold meal. Meal tickets are available to purchase from the school office.

Alternatively, students may bring their own snacks for break times. We would request that this food is healthy and nutritious. The School Food Trust recommends that packed lunches should include:

- At least one portion of fruit and one portion of vegetables every day.
- Dairy food such as milk, cheese or yoghurt.
- Only water, still or sparkling, milk or yoghurt drinks.



Uniform

We encourage our students to wear their uniform with pride. It creates a sense of identity and equality.

All students wear a royal blue polo shirt, navy blue sweatshirt and black school shoes. Girls wear blue skirts and white socks and boys wear grey shorts and grey socks. Children may also wear a white vest under their uniform, to help them keep warm.

Students from Nursery onwards also need to bring a swimming costume and towel during terms 1 and 2.

For PE, students from Reception to Year 6 change into white shorts and a white polo shirt.

The majority of our uniform is available to purchase from the school office.

