



# PRIMARY PROSPECTUS

2022-2023



# Sir Harry Johnston International School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

**A very warm welcome to Sir Harry Johnston International School.**

The wise old proverb “It takes a village to raise a child” is reflected in the philosophy of our school. We believe the true nature of education is a collaboration between child, parent, school and community.

Our most important priority is to encourage our children to develop a love of learning. This will enable them to become creative problem solvers and to be equipped with the confidence and skills needed to thrive in the modern world.

Our talented staff ensure that learning is relevant, interesting and accessible for all. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum both in school hours and through our wide range of extra-curricular activities. We are committed to helping students reach their full potential in order to become future leaders of society.

We encourage you to come and see for yourself our wonderful family school. We would be very happy to give you a personal tour.

Yours sincerely

James Elford  
Principal



## School Background

Sir Harry Johnston International School was founded in 1959 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. In 2019 the school celebrated its diamond (60<sup>th</sup>) anniversary.



Sir Harry's is a truly international school, but at the same time nurtures the future leaders of Malawi. We have approximately 140 students on roll in the primary school.



## Our Vision and Mission



### Vision

To be an international school that instils a life-long love of learning and equips learners with the knowledge and skills to achieve their full potential and become successful future leaders.

### Mission

As a school community of children, staff and parents, we are committed to creating a safe, caring and inclusive environment, which respects and values each and every learner as an individual.

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 aspirations and 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; recognising, accepting and celebrating cultural differences.

**Clear communicators**, who are 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.

Our core values include the following:

- 1) Excellence: we strive to be outstanding in all our endeavours.
- 2) Integrity: we do the right thing at the right time, always.
- 3) Inclusiveness: we provide equal access and opportunities to everyone regardless of academic ability, gender, race and socio-economic status.
- 4) Teamwork: we believe in collaborative effort to achieve a common goal.
- 5) Respect: we care about people and treating everyone well.
- 6) Responsiveness: we provide positive timely responses.
- 7) Openness: we welcome new ideas and opinions.
- 8) Resilience: we don't give up in the face of challenge.

## Meet the teachers

Below are the class teachers from the Primary School:

	Mr James Elford Principal		Mrs Thoko Chisale Pre-Nursery Teacher
	Mrs Dorothy Juma Nursery Teacher		Mrs Bernadine Stewart Reception Teacher
	Mrs Shelley Pyman Year 1 Teacher		Mrs Vungani Midian Year 2 Teacher
	Mr Colin Doney Year 3/4 Teacher		Miss Fiona Knott Year 5/6 Teacher and Primary Lead

In addition to our class teachers we also have specialist teachers for PE and Languages.

Each class is provided with additional support from our talented team of teaching assistants.

## Pupil Voice

At Sir Harry's we try to listen to the views of our children and involve them in our decision making. We give them opportunities to develop their leadership skills through becoming a school councillor or house captain. We also have a weekly Learning Forum where children can share their ideas on how the school can continue to achieve the highest possible standards.

We asked our children what they liked about Sir Harry's. Below are their responses:

"I like Sir Harry's because they have a Star of the week." (Charissa, aged 5)

"We are so lucky at Sir Harry's because we have a real swimming pool." (Akonda, aged 6)

"Actually, Sir Harry's is just fun, fun, fun!" (Linga, aged 6)

"We get smarter at Sir Harry's." (Roman, aged 7)

"I like sports because we stay fit." (Kupa, aged 7)

"The teachers make everything understandable." (David, aged 8)

"I like how the teachers encourage us when we are stuck. I also love learning to swim and going on camps and trips," (Alayna, aged 9)

"I love how everyone is kind to me and others. It makes me feel happy every day." (Seko, aged 9)

"I love the three keys to success: be determined, be the best you can be and be cool. We have all the keys." (Tupoche, aged 11)

"Sir Harry's has some of the kindest teachers. We learn lots and never get bored." (Prayer, aged 11)



## Our School Facilities



Our Primary School includes a Pre-Nursery and Nursery Class 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 a variety of fiction and non-fiction books, as well as 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 swimming pool, two 7-a-side football pitches, netball field, basketball court, nursery playground and a cross country track.



## The School Day

The school day begins at 7:30am. Children in Pre-Nursery and Nursery go straight to their classrooms when they arrive. The rest of the primary school line up with their classes on the playground. At 11:45am Pre-Nursery and Nursery Children are collected from their classrooms. The rest of the primary school finish at 2:00pm on Mondays to Thursdays (unless they have clubs) and 11:45am on Fridays.



## The Curriculum

Learning is skills-based shaped largely around the English curriculum. The children enjoy a cross-curricular approach to learning through topics such as: The History of Sir Harry's, Water, Wildlife and Food, which allows for a deliberate African flavour to learning. Lessons encourage independent and critical thinking through the use of thinking hats and maps, and the emphasis on collaborative learning. High quality teaching and exciting and enthusiastic learning is guaranteed.



## Sports

Children at Sir Harry's have many opportunities to excel in sports. Each term we have house events where children compete in a variety of different sports. We also play tournaments against the other international schools.



## Wider Opportunities

We organise many enrichment activities to ensure our curriculum is both challenging and exciting. Children have opportunities to perform during our class assemblies and school plays. Each year we have themed weeks for English, Maths and Science, as well as regular Problem Solving and Design Technology Days. Our older children have the opportunity to develop their independence through our residential experiences.





## Swimming Pool

We are proud to have our own swimming pool at Sir Harry's. From Nursery onwards children have regular swimming lessons as part of the curriculum. From year 2, they are also able to join our after-school swimming clubs.



## 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.

## **Parent Teacher Association (Anzathu)**

Each year our Parent Teacher Association (Anzathu) organises various social and fundraising events for the whole community. Previous activities have included: International Food Night, Christmas Fair, Bingo Night, Sponsored Swim and Music Night. These activities are a great way for new families to become part of the school community.



## **Admissions**

Children are placed in year groups according to their age at the beginning of the academic year (1<sup>st</sup> September). We assess the children informally once 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**

Our current tuition fees are available from the school office. Parents have the option of paying in full at the start of each term or paying by instalments.



## **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. In the winter children may wear grey trousers and a white vest under their uniform, to help them keep warm.

Students from Nursery onwards 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, white polo shirt and trainers.

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

## **Lunch time**

Students remain in school during lunch times. They should bring a packed lunch and a bottle of water each day. Please note the school will not allow fast food deliveries.

We 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, milk or yoghurt drinks.

## General Information

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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Type of school: International School  
Non-profit making  
Co-educational day and boarding  
English medium

Principal: Mr James Elford

Chair of Board: Dr Liveness Mwale