

Orkney Schools Metasaga
Welcome to the
Stromness Academy Metasaga



Explore our Island

Think our thoughts

Find your voice



Orkney Schools Metasaga
Developing Leadership at all Levels

What's it all about?

A Metasaga is like a philosophical treasure hunt. It allows you to explore an area, but at the same time it helps you discover yourself.

On the front page of our metasaga booklet it says “Explore our Island...Think your thoughts...Find your voice”

When you visit a metasaga site you are asked to consider your opinions and to ponder your beliefs. You have to reflect on who and what you hold dear, to contemplate what is really important to you and fathom that which you will not compromise.

Taking part in a metasaga will help you understand yourself in a meaningful way. It encourages you to think and consider your place in the world and your relationships with others.

Inspiration for developing the Metasaga came from Kate Coutts, Headteacher at Uyeasound PS in Unst, Shetland. Kate had been initially been inspired by the work of Leif Josselson (Metafari) in Tanzania.

For further information go to:

<http://metafari.blogspot.com/search/label/Metasaga>

Metasaga is a journey through the culture, heritage and physical landscape. It allows leaders at all levels to engage in deep self-reflection by exploring their environment. It makes leaders at all levels reframe their thinking using metaphor, narrative, tradition and artifacts found in their own physical environment. It combines the business techniques of non-directive coaching, dialogue and appreciative inquiry with the traditional story telling teaching of our culture, the Norse saga.

Impetus for taking forward Metasaga as a highly motivational and interactive leadership tool was generated by colleagues from Orkney who took part in the original Metasaga experience in Shetland in summer 2008. They recommended that the tool be embedded as part of Orkney's Schools of Ambition project.

Planning

Pupils and staff from each of the 6 secondary schools attended a central conference. Each school was in the process of developing a Metasaga. They had explored the catchment area of their own school and identified key stopping points.

Pupils researched each stop and developed a series of reflective and interpretive questions. The schools then created a Metasaga in their community. Each school visited a neighbouring school to trial their Metasaga. Participants could then post their responses on-line.

A strategy group then chose an activity from each of the schools to create an Orkney wide Metasaga. This will also be posted on the internet using the Education service's website.

Orkney Schools Metasaga was developed in partnership with Orkney Schools of Ambition and an Orkney - Shetland Islands staff initiative for developing leadership skills.

Participating schools:

Kirkwall Grammar School

North Walls Community School

Sanday Community School

Stromness Academy

Stronsay Junior High School

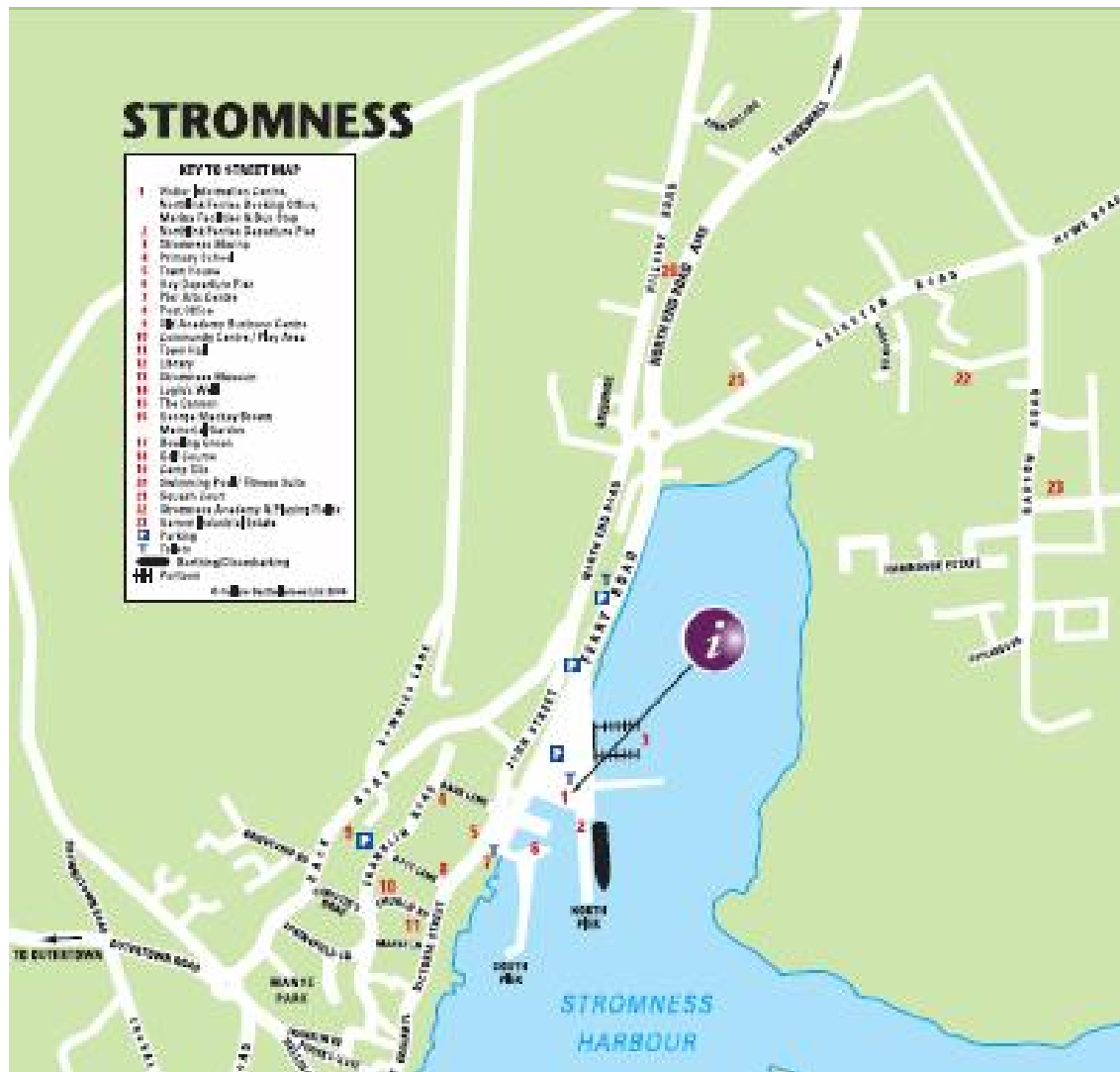
Westray Junior High School.

STROMNESS

KEY TO STREET MAP

- 1 Visitor Information Centre
- 2 North Pier Ferry Booking Office
- 3 Motor Fuel/Book & Buy Shop
- 4 North Pier Ferry Departure Pier
- 5 Stromness Marina
- 6 Primary School
- 7 Town House
- 8 Key Department Store
- 9 Post Office
- 10 Academy Bookshop Centre
- 11 Community Centre / Play Area
- 12 Open Hall
- 13 Library
- 14 Stromness Museum
- 15 Lighthouse
- 16 The Common
- 17 George Murray House
- 18 Museum Gardens
- 19 Bookshop
- 20 Café
- 21 Camp Site
- 22 Swimming Pool / Fitness Suite
- 23 Squash Court
- 24 Stromness Area Camp & Holiday Centre
- 25 Various Leisure Facilities
- Parking
- T Taxi
- Swimming/Canoeing
- Post Office

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100



This is the bay of Stromness where many people first lay eyes on our little town...the gateway to Orkney itself for centuries.



Draped like grey lace the Orkney town of Stromness' Bill Bryson

Interpretive Questions:

Looking carefully, you can see a lot of houses are built so that they have an end facing the sea. Why do you think this is?

It was called by the Vikings Hafnvarg meaning haven bay. Why do you think they called it that?

What does it suggest about the lives of the inhabitants then, and now?

Look carefully: the narrow flag-stoned streets, the small-windowed houses, the cannon overlooking the bay. Can you explain these features?

Reflective Questions:

If you could find a safe haven what would it be like?

In Stromness, tourists and locals share the streets, and nodding give-way politely to each other. – patient co-existence and manners mark the atmosphere.

How do you greet strangers ?

www.Orkneyjar.com/Orkney/stromness

Travelling west from Stromness we bring you to the sea-coast looking out towards the cliffs of Hoy and the wide Atlantic horizon. This is a place to consider the lives of Orcadians past.

“Fishermen with ploughs”, George Mackay Brown called us.



Interpretive Questions:

Why do you think the rock-beds are so flat?

What evidence can you see of erosion here?

Looking across at Hoy, what do you think shaped its landscape?

Reflective questions:

Why do you think we find the sound of the sea so calming?

Do you feel here the connection with a primal past, the lure of the sea?

The sea erodes, and re-builds, the land on which we stand, if you could have such power to change, are there things you would like to transform in your life?

On the way to the Ring of Brodgar, we draw you inland: the rolling fields opening out into the fertile landscape connecting us to the present and immersing us in the community of the past.



Interpretive questions:

The land is low lying and very smooth, how do you think it was formed?

Very few traditional houses occupy the high ground, why do you think this is?

The high ground is less farmed than the low ground, what reasons might there be for this?

Can you see any standing stones or cairns? Why do you think farmers of the past kept them safe?

Reflective Questions:

Do you know of any traditions that local people try to maintain to keep links with their historical past?

Most farms are give a name to reflect the farmers who have worked a piece of the land for generations. What name would you give to your a farm if you had one?

The Ring of Brodgar is situated between the Harray and the Stenness Lochs, connecting land, sky and sea in an awe inspiring panorama.



Interpretive questions:

The stones have been carefully placed in the landscape why do you think this spot was chosen?

These are very heavy stones and were not mined where they stand. How do you think “primitive” man brought and erected them here?

Why do you think there is a ditch surrounding the circle?

Reflective questions:

The Ring of Brodgar is a great example of how people worked together in the past.

How do you work with others?

The stones are covered in graffiti, some of it dating back centuries,

Why do you think people feel the need to leave their mark?

If you could leave a message for future generations, what would it be?

www.orkneyjar.com/history/brodgar

www.orkneyjar.com/folklore/giants/brognt.htm

Burgar Hill

In the shadow of the turbines, we stand and take in the fantastic view of some of the islands across Eynehallow sound.



Interpretive questions:

Why do you think this spot was selected for the Wind mill?

How many windmills can you see from here?

Why do you think Orkney supports wind farming?

Reflective questions:

Here among the monoliths of our generation we can think about our modern beliefs, our own connections to the environment and what we will leave behind for future generations...

What changes have you been aware of in your lifetime?

What changes would you like to make?

<http://www.all-energy.co.uk/UserFiles/File/25Gauld.pdf>

<http://www.ecoschoolsscotland.org/>

<http://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>

And so we head back through time, through the landscape into the seascape, and the ferry “Home” aboard the MV Hamnavoe, named after the old Norse name for Stromness



Vital to all Communities in Orkney are their Ferry links.

Situated in Stromness is the link to the Scottish mainland at Scrabster.

Interpretive questions:

Why was the harbour at Stromness developed?

How important is this link to the town of Stromness?

Reflective Questions:

How important is it to keep links with other cultures?

Is it more important to keep links with the past or built links with new partners?

Orkney Metasaga Schools

If you have enjoyed your journey through our Metasaga and would like to explore another, here are the other schools involved.

