

Orkney Schools Metasaga
Welcome to the
Stronsay Junior High School Metasaga



Explore our island Think your 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 Jossefson (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

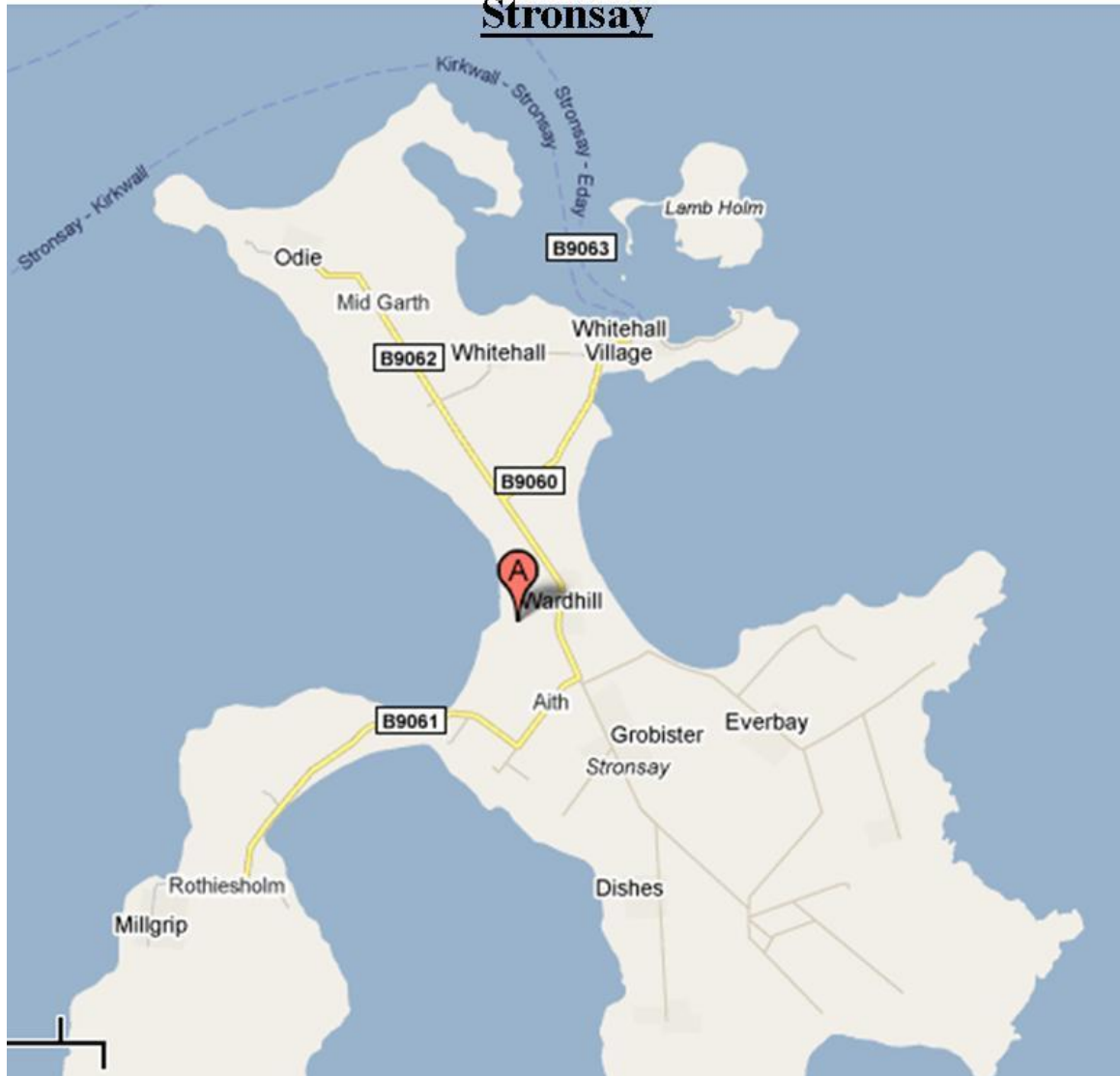
Sanday Community School

Stromness Academy

Stronsay Junior High School

Westray Junior High School

Stronsay



Stop 1: Stronsay Fish Mart

The FishMart Museum catalogues Stronsay's herring fishing past.

It also has café facilities and a hostel.

Hyperlinks

www.scotfishmuseum.org.uk

www.stronsay.com



Interpretive questions

What jobs were there for men in the herring time?

What did the women do?

What different tools did the different workers use?

Reflective questions

What skills do you have that make you a good team player?

What skills do you have that would have made you a good team member in the herring fishing days on Stronsay?

Stop 2: Vat o' Kirbuster

This nature walk affords easy access to the Vat. Cliff scenery in the area is breathtaking - a must for every visitor; but take care. From Whitehall it is a round trip of 10 miles, however, length of walk can adjusted to suit ability.

Hyperlinks

www.extremeironing.com

www.naturalarches.org.uk



Interpretive questions

What forces were at work to leave the Vat's shape?

What sports does the Vat lend itself to?

Can you identify 3 seabirds?

Can you collect 3 different types of flowers?

Reflective questions

If you were participating in an extreme sport, who would you have in your team, and why?

If you were hanging from a cliff who would you phone to come and rescue you, and why?

Stop 3: Lamb Head

This beautiful promontory, home, to myriad seabirds, is also dotted with interesting archaeological sites including, 'Pict Houses'. At the neck of the isthmus the so called Dane's Pier, a natural rock structure said to be the site of a Norse harbour, is a haven for seals. From Whitehall, a round trip of 12 miles.

Hyperlinks

www.ancientstoneart.com/gallery

www.scotshistoryonline.co.uk

www.orcadianwildlife.co.uk

Business links

www.buyorkney.com/

informationwww.visitororkney.com



Interpretive questions

How many different types of birds can you spot?

What are the Picts' houses made of?

What are birds' homes made of?

Music to reflect to.....

Debussy 'La Mer'

Enya 'Who are the Celts?'

Reflective questions

What would you like to leave behind as your legacy?

Stop 4: The Windmills

There are 3 windmills located on Rothiesholm Hill. They were built in 2002 and are 45 meters high. Each blade is 23 meters in length. The windmill tower is made of metal and the nacelle of fibreglass. Each windmill is capable of producing 900 kilowatts of electricity.

www.orknypics.com/webpage/page/page017.html

Business links

www.bp.com



Interpretive questions

Can you see anymore windmills from where you are standing?

How many, and do you know where they are?

How many times do you think a blade would fit in the tower?

Reflective Questions

Do you feel less guilty in using up natures seemingly ever ending power, rather than burning fossil fuels?

Should we share our local energy with other communities?

Music

to reflect to....

Richard Strauss 'Don Quixote – Variation1 Adventure at the Windmill'

Stop 5: St Catherine's Bay

A fine sandy stretch with very low tides which make it a popular 'spoot', or razor fish, beach. This edible shellfish is dug out of the sand. Access road to parking area and beach.

Hyperlinks

www.thescotsman.scotsman.com (Kath Gourlay)



Interpretive questions

Can you find a 'spoot' shell?

Can you find 3 other types of shell?

Reflective questions

Spoots are only found living in certain types of beaches.

What is it about your home that makes it special for you?

What would you take from it to help you live in a completely different place?

Music to reflect to.....

Saint-Saens 'Carnival of the Animals – In the Aquarium'

Stop 6: Airfield, Huip

Stronsay is connected to some of the other north isles and to the Orkney mainland by an air service, as well as by ferry. The 8-seater plane provides a much faster link and so is used by teachers, bankers, health workers etc to 'commute'. The Islander aircraft also provided an ambulance service, but now Stronsay is served by a helicopter which is based on the Scottish mainland.



Interpretive questions

How long does a direct flight from Stronsay to Kirkwall take?

What is the shortest flight you can take in Orkney with Loganair?

At the airfield, how can you tell from which direction the wind is blowing?

Reflective questions

What qualities would the pilot of an Islander aircraft need to possess?

Which of these qualities do you think you might have?

Who would you chose as a co-pilot on life's journey?

Business link

www.loganair.co.uk

Music to reflect to.....

Rimsky Korsokov 'Flight of the bumble Bee'

Map of the locations of the six Metasaga stops across Orkney.

Each location have their own booklet to allow you to undertake your own voyage of personal discovery.

