



**HIGH  
SCHOOL  
OF DUNDEE  
Nursery**

**Prospectus**



# High School of Dundee Nursery



**Your child is unique and the importance of the early years in all areas of a child's development is widely recognised. It is therefore crucial to get it right for every boy and girl.**

In August 2014, the High School of Dundee opened its first-ever Nursery with the aim of providing a vibrant, welcoming and stimulating education which is designed to get your child's future off to the best possible start.

In its first inspection visit by the Care Inspectorate, the Nursery received a ringing endorsement with gradings of 'very good' for each area under review.

- Age 3-5
- Early Years funding towards places is available from Dundee City Council

- Open to all, 7.30am - 6pm, 50 weeks of the year
- Flexible sessions, available on all year round or term-time basis



# A purpose-built Nursery

**Located at the School's Mayfield campus, on Arbroath Road in Dundee, our purpose-built Nursery provides a secure, nurturing and inspiring setting in which children can learn, play and develop. It is open from 7.30am-6pm, 50 weeks of the year, with a range of flexible sessions available on a term-time or all year round basis.**

The Nursery offers a bright, spacious and purposeful environment which is perfect for early years education, with an extensive variety of internal and external play and learning areas. The unique location alongside the School's top of the range indoor and outdoor sports facilities and vast green space at Mayfield means our energetic youngsters have the opportunity to be active whatever the weather!

Ample on-site parking is available for parents, allowing easy drop-off and collection of children.

The building is named after the social reformer Mary Lily Walker, a Former Pupil of the School, whose pioneering work in Victorian and Edwardian Dundee was fundamental in improving the social conditions of young mothers and their children.

The Nursery makes full use of the School's playing fields and sports halls

## Our approach

**A child's early years are of pivotal importance to his or her personal, social, physical, intellectual and spiritual development. Our approach is therefore designed to make sure that our pupils not only have the opportunity to flourish at this key stage of their lives, but also to acquire the core skills that will enable them to be happy and successful learners for life.**

Under the leadership of our Nursery Manager Sarah Tosh, who is an experienced Primary Teacher, our team of well qualified, caring and knowledgeable staff ensure that all our children are valued as individuals and given the care and support they need to thrive.

We seek to recognise each child's strengths and needs. That allows us to tailor our activities and experiences to enable our children to develop holistically within a warm, friendly community.

Specialist music and PE teachers give lessons in the Nursery and strong links have been established with our L1 (P1) classes, whose teachers visit the Nursery regularly to become fully acquainted with the children. Those pupils who continue on to L1 of the High School of Dundee are therefore perfectly placed to make the most of a continuity of high quality education that now extends from age 3 through to 18 at the High School. But regardless of which school your child goes on to, our staff ensure that all our pupils are prepared and eager to make the important progression.



Input from specialist teachers

# Partnership with parents

We firmly believe that there should be a real and strong partnership with parents. We aim to work closely with you, communicating on a daily basis, to ensure that your child's progress is monitored and that any concerns or questions can be answered quickly. Your feedback is always welcome as we strive to make certain that your child's experience is happy, stimulating and fun.

Parents are also welcome to spend time in the Nursery and regular informal contact and feedback is provided by your child's Key Person. More formal written reports are also provided.

## Our Promise

Our goal is to deliver the very best nursery education for each and every boy and girl.

### We promise to:

- Create a warm, secure and nurturing environment
- See every child as unique and develop their individual skills and potential, confidence and self-esteem
- Listen to each child and respond to their interests
- Work together with families for the benefit of every child
- Make learning exciting, stimulating and fun
- Provide a rich curriculum which rigorously develops skills through active learning
- Provide a balance of spontaneous play; planned, purposeful activities; investigations and explorations; and focused learning and teaching
- Provide top quality resources in our spacious, bright, purpose-built facility
- Employ highly qualified, experienced, innovative, caring and committed staff

Led by experienced  
Primary Teacher

"Fantastic facilities  
and wonderful staff"



# Curriculum

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**Our carefully planned wide-ranging curriculum develops each child's potential and makes learning fun, with a balance between structured group activities and active learning through play and discovery.**

**Literacy and Language Development** lies at the heart of everything we aim to do. Stimulating opportunities abound for children to develop language and vocabulary through various play activities. Stories and rhymes happen every day and books, notices and signs surround the children. We also begin to make children aware of other languages. In our pre-school year, if ready, children are encouraged to take the first steps into learning about letters and sounds.

**Number and Numeracy** is taught in a multitude of ways. As they engage in play, every opportunity is taken to develop children's understanding of numbers. We talk about measurement, size and volume as children experiment with the likes of sand and water or take part in baking sessions. Awareness of patterns is also developed.

**Health and Well-being** is a fundamental part of child development at this stage. Children are only just learning to interact with each other. They are encouraged to play together, to take turns, to share and to listen to each other. Fairness and respect for others forms a fundamental part of nursery life, aiding the transition to school. In developing their confidence and self-esteem, we encourage children to make choices and decisions and to contribute to the planning of the Nursery. We also encourage good hygiene and set good habits for life by promoting healthy eating.

## **Physical Development**

Children have plenty of opportunity to run, jump and exercise outdoors! We are fortunate in being attached to a multi-million pound games centre and we take advantage of its superb facilities as well as the specialist teaching provided by the School's PE staff. Bikes and scooters, balls and bean-bags help co-ordination. Fine motor skills are also developed through art, craft and construction activities.

## **Exploring the world**

We aim to encourage each child's natural curiosity about their world. The vast green space and wooded areas at Mayfield allow the children to observe nature - the trees, wildlife, the weather and seasons. We also go on outings in the local area and beyond. Our Nursery grassy area has lots of space for the children to grow plants and vegetables. Science and nature are explored through displays and special topics, feeding the children's appetite for knowledge. We also start to explore world religions by looking at celebrations and special food.

## **The Expressive Arts**

Because children use the expressive arts as a way to make sense of their own world, we provide numerous opportunities for them to take part in role-play. An area for 'messy play' and a whole raft of art and craft activities are available, from paints and clay to collage-making and printing. One of the School's specialist music teachers visits to provide focused input, but songs and music-making are also a spontaneous part of everyday nursery life.

## **Catering**

Healthy eating forms an important part of the day. All of our food is provided and prepared on-site by the School's caterers Chartwells, who specialise in producing fresh, balanced, nutritious menu choices. Children help prepare their own snacks and have the chance to try new and exciting tastes. Lunch is provided and served under the supervision of our staff. Lunch and snacks are included in the fees.

## Wide-ranging curriculum



“The Nursery staff have shown exceptional care and support for my child. The environment is calm and stimulating, it has a family feel. The children engage in fantastic activities”

# A clear aspiration

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**“Every child is unique and the importance of early years in a child’s development is self-evident and well documented. We are hugely grateful to parents for entrusting their children into our care. We aspire to provide an environment that is second to none and which ensures that ‘our’ children develop and grow at our fabulous facility.”**

Dr John D Halliday BA PhD  
Rector

We would be delighted to welcome you to our wonderful Nursery to show you round and answer any questions that you might have.

If you are interested in finding out more or arranging a visit, in the first instance please contact Mrs Alex McGrory on **01382 202921** or email [nursery@highschoolofdundee.org.uk](mailto:nursery@highschoolofdundee.org.uk) For more information about the Nursery, please also visit [www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/nursery](http://www.highschoolofdundee.org.uk/nursery)

## How to apply

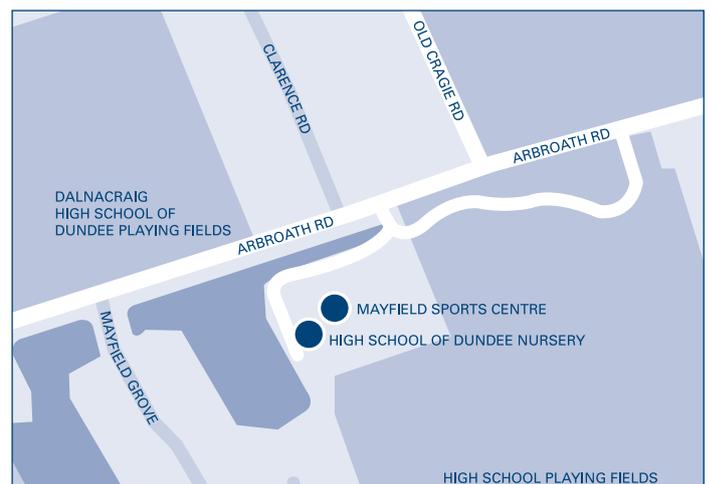
If you would like to apply for a place for your child, please complete an application form (also available on the School’s website) and send to:

**The High School of Dundee  
Euclid Crescent  
Dundee DD1 1HU**

As our Nursery has partnership provider status with Dundee City Council, funding towards your child’s place may be available. A variety of sessions are available and fees vary according to the sessions chosen and whether the place is full-time or term-time only. Details of the sessions and rates are available on the Nursery section of the website.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

The High School of Dundee provides straight-through, top quality education from age 3-18. If you would like to find out more about the School, please contact Mrs McGrory, on **01382 202921** or email [admissions@highschoolofdundee.org.uk](mailto:admissions@highschoolofdundee.org.uk)







**HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE**  
Nursery

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