HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE
Nursery



Our Nursery



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

– Parent



Our Nursery

Our nursery provides a vibrant, welcoming and stimulating education, designed to get your child's future off to the best possible start. We provide responsive care that nurtures each child's individual needs, fostering secure relationships, emotional wellbeing, and a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

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 child.

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 8.00am–6.00pm, 50 weeks of the year, with full day, morning and afternoon 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 can 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.



Mrs Lisa Yule,
Nursery Manager



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. 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.

Input from specialist teachers
Specialist music and PE teachers visit the Nursery and provide a variety of experiences. Strong links have been established with our L1 (P1) classes, whose teachers, supported by our Transition Practitioner, 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 3–18 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 into primary school.

The Nursery makes full use of the school's playing fields and sports hall.



HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE Nursery

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 through planned experiences such as open evenings, and stay and play sessions. Regular informal contact and feedback is provided by all nursery staff through the Nursery Learning Journals App. Key people provide a settling in report, end of year report, ongoing progress in learning and events across nursery.

“Fantastic facilities and wonderful staff.”

- Parent



HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE Nursery

Our Promise

Our goal is to deliver the very best nursery education for every child. 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 free-flow play; planned, purposeful activities; investigations and explorations, with time to reflect on learning
- Provide top quality resources in our spacious, bright, purpose-built facility
- Employ highly qualified, experienced, innovative, caring and committed staff





Curriculum

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

Literacy lies at the heart of everything we aim to do. Stimulating opportunities abound for children to develop their language and literacy skills across all areas of the nursery. 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.

Maths and Numeracy is experienced in a multitude of ways. As they engage in play, every opportunity is taken to develop children's understanding of numbers, money, measure, shape, position, movement and informative handling. 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 in our extensive garden 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 engaging with the world around them, feeding the children's natural curiosity for learning. We also start to explore our world religions by learning about celebrations, customs and learning about UNCRC and children's rights.

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 Aramark, who specialise in producing fresh, balanced, nutritious menu choices. In line with 'Setting the Table' guidance, 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.



Come and see us at the Nursery

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 would like to arrange a visit, please contact our Nursery team on:

01382 306222

or email
nursery@highschoolofdundee.org.uk



Readiness for School Journey – L1 (P1)

If you are interested in finding out more about our Primary and Secondary schools, please come along to one of our whole school Open Mornings or book an individual tour on a school day. We would love to share our L1 Readiness for School Programme with you and share more information about our Early Years Transition Practitioner's role in ensuring a smooth transition from Nursery into L1. You can chat to pupils, teachers and other parents about the opportunities of our all-through school journey from ages 3-18.

Please contact the Admissions Team at the main school on:

01382 202921

or email
admissions@highschoolofdundee.org.uk

HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE Nursery

How to apply for a Nursery Place

If you would like to apply for a place for your child, please complete our online application form which can be found on our website, or use the QR code below.

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

Once we acknowledge receipt of your application we will then be in touch 6–8 weeks before your chosen start date to confirm your child's place. We will be unable to guarantee a place until that time.

For more information please visit
highschoolofdundee.org.uk/nursery/our-nursery