



HIGH
SCHOOL
OF DUNDEE

Real
World
Ready

Junior Years



“Since L1, I’ve had an amazing experience. HSD is getting me ready for real life.”

– Ollie L6



Junior School Journey



Mrs Julie Rose,
Deputy Rector Junior Years

Choosing a school for your child is a big decision, so it is only right that you ask lots of questions to ensure you are giving your child the very best start on their school journey.

We are an all-through school which allows us to provide the very best support as your child progresses through each stage of their school years and beyond. Our classes throughout Junior Years are small which allows class teachers to build excellent relationships with all the children in their care. The small number in each class means the teachers really get to each child's strengths, interests and aptitudes. We also work hard to encourage positive and supportive relationships with each child's family and we value the incredible support the parents show. To provide a valuable, high quality learning experience we do not operate composite classes. Our pupils form genuine friendships for life and continue to stay in touch, coming along to events year after year.

At whatever stage you choose to join us you can be sure of a warm welcome and smooth transition to help your child settle quickly into their new routine. To help them quickly feel part of our HSD family, we arrange a series of familiarisation visits where your child will be matched with a class buddy. In partnership with parents we also work hard to identify and fill any gaps in your child's learning.

Our Deputy Rector, Deputy Head, Class Teachers, dedicated Emotional Support Teacher, Pupil Support Assistants and our wider staff team are all there to provide pastoral care and support for every child.

In Junior Years, we have four dedicated Learning Skills specialists committed to providing appropriate and effective support for all children who have an additional support need. This important staffing resource enables all children to work towards reaching their full potential. For some, this may be short term support to overcome a specific barrier to their learning, whilst others may require ongoing support throughout their school career.

The majority of our parents work full-time, so we want to do all we can to support you as a family. We run dedicated buses to and from a variety of areas to ease the commute to school. Many of our co-curricular activities take place during the school day. By joining these activities in school this may replace the need for you to find external classes in the evening and weekends.

Sunrise and Sunset Clubs run from 7:45am–8:30am and 4:15pm–6.00pm respectively, with no need to book in advance. During our Easter and Summer holidays we also run holiday clubs at our Mayfield Campus.



Readiness for School – L1 (P1)

In L1, our bright and colourful classrooms provide the very best start for the children as they transition from nursery into school. Our classes provide a happy, safe and nurturing environment in which the children get the best possible start to their school experience.

Our small classes in P1 ensure the best support for every child. Classes are taught by their class teacher with the help of pupil support assistants, learning support staff and specialist teaching in Music, IT and PE. Our Early Years Transition Practitioner will also be with the children in the classroom and playground for the first 6 months.

This is a unique role and the only one of its kind in the local area. Moving to school is a time of change and our Early Years Transition Practitioner plays a vital role supporting your children as they take those big steps from nursery to school.

For children joining L1, our readiness for School Journey includes a series of 'getting to know you' visits between January and June, to ensure you and your child feel reassured about the next steps on this exciting journey.

Some benefits of joining us in L1

- Our Early Years Practitioner, supporting children as they move from nursery to school
- Small class sizes – maximum of 20 children per class
- Specialist teaching in Music, IT and PE
- Learning Support from L1-F6
- A timetable that establishes routine, with opportunities for learning through doing, thinking and exploring
- Comprehensive pastoral support that ensures your child is happy and confident both in and out of the classroom
- Sunrise & Sunset club from 7:45am–6.00pm – no booking required





Primary 2, 3, 4, 5

In Junior Years, the children benefit from smaller class sizes, with the Class Teacher providing a consistently, high quality primary education to equip your child with the knowledge, experience, and tools to become a happy and successful learner.

As the children progress through the years, we mix the classes in each year group at the start of the session to ensure the year group as whole is a friendly and supportive group where all the children know and support each other. Our goal is to nurture individual talents and allow your child to thrive. To do that we provide a wide range of curricular subjects and co-curricular clubs to create choice, opportunity and inspire every child to find what makes them tick.

Our classes are welcoming and calm with the children motivated by dedicated, hardworking staff, and our teachers get to teach!

Literacy and Numeracy is at the heart of our curriculum with a wide range of social, expressive and science activities interspersed throughout each day. Some subjects such as Music and PE are taught by our Senior Years specialists who share their specialist knowledge and skills with the children to add an extra dimension to the learning and teaching experiences on offer. As subject specialist they naturally excel in their chosen subject and engage, inspire, and instil a curiosity in each and every child.

The learning and teaching activities experienced by our children in these years groups creatively continue to build a strong foundation in skills, knowledge and understanding. The children are becoming more independent in their learning as they embrace opportunities to work collaboratively with their friends and to widen their knowledge of the world around them.



**“My school is fun and
exciting and I love that
my friends are so kind.”**

- Quentin L4



**It's a great place for
learning opportunities,
I love to play sport!**

– Matthew L6



Primary 6 & 7

We continue to positively encourage and support the children to transition between different educational stages. Being an all-through school provides the security and familiarity of the same environment.

From an academic perspective we ensure that your child feels prepared for their next steps and their new teachers are fully able to support them. In consultation with parents, we can also provide enhanced transition between year groups from our Social and Emotional specialist, Mrs Duff. This targeted support helps children who may struggle socially with their peers or who just need a little reassurance and an extra member of staff to check in with if they find some situations overwhelming.

Our teachers work together to help build independence, familiarisation and confidence as the children start to visit more parts of the campus for timetabled lessons with specialist teachers. L6-7 is when the children see more Senior Years teachers delivering a wider range of subject

during their school week. The children now head over to the Senior years classrooms to experience Mandarin, Drama, Computing and Health and Food Technology alongside the specialist Music and PE on offer since nursery.

A real highlight of L6 and L7 is that the children are offered their first taste of school residential trips. In L6 the year group head to Dalguise for three nights where they love being involved in a series of outdoor team building activities. From raft building to high ropes to campfires and discos the children love being together with their classmates.

We then build on this trip by taking the L7 children to London for a fun filled, packed week where they delight in visiting iconic London sights. The London Eye, Madam Tussauds, a West End Musical, The Imperial War Museum and the firm favourite, Harry Potter Studios make this a week that lasts in the children's memories well into Senior Years and beyond.



Co-curricular – added value

The wide range of curricular subjects in Junior Years gives your child a breadth and depth of learning. The extensive choice of co-curricular opportunities offered to the children, either at lunchtime or after school, help to ensure they have richer experiences, learning new skills and becoming fully rounded individuals.

Each teacher in Junior Years runs at least one club or area in our co-curricular programme. We are delighted to offer opportunities in interests such as Junior Choir, Tutti Strings, Construction Club, Digital Leaders, Minecraft, Netball, Hockey, Rugby, Nature Club, Origami, Glee, STEM club, Craft and Technology.

If your child is keen to learn a musical instrument they can enjoy individual Music lessons during the school day, from L2 onwards.

Musical concerts are held at Trinity Hall and Dundee's Caird Hall throughout the year. The variety in instrumental opportunities is second to none, from chanter, recorder, strings, woodwind, bagpipes and drums.

Every second year we also produce and perform our Junior Years Musical. Our last two musicals, *Matilda* and *The Wizard of Oz*, involved all children in L6 and L7 doing a weeklong run at a local theatre where they dazzled audiences with their singing and dancing talents.



**HSD is an amazing school.
I have learnt so much
in the four weeks since
I started, and I can't wait
to learn more.**

– Cara L7

Contact the Admissions team

Get in touch today

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The Admissions Team



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