



**HIGH
SCHOOL
OF DUNDEE**

**Real
World
Ready**



Junior Years

Learning Skills Support

Learning Skills Support in the Junior Years

About the department

The Learning Skills department is committed to the provision of appropriate and effective support for all pupils who have an additional support need, to enable them to enjoy and achieve in their education. For some pupils, this may be short term support to overcome a specific barrier to their learning, whilst others may require ongoing support throughout their school career at the High School of Dundee.



The Learning Skills team work closely with the School Leadership Team and class teachers to support pupils in the Junior Years. We also work in partnership with parents and the pupils themselves. Parents are always consulted before a child begins Learning Skills support.

Support needs are determined on a case-by-case basis and is needs and not label led. Having an identified additional support need does not necessarily mean that time-tabled Learning Skills support will be required.



We have a number of pupils who access the full curriculum but are supported through classroom strategies shared through their Pupil Profile and potential additional assessment arrangements (AAR).

The Learning Skills Department

The Junior Years Learning Skills department is a small team of specialist teachers:

- Mrs Jo Downie MA QTS PG Dip
(Additional Support for Learning)
Head of Department
- Mrs Carolyn McDonald BEd
- Mrs Louise Duff MA PGCE
- Mrs Fiona Trotter Bsc PGCE
(also Senior Year Learning Skills)



Due to our small group teaching, we get to know our pupils very well. We love seeing our pupils progress over their time with us, and are here to cheer them on every step of the way!



Our knowledge of the pupil and baseline assessments inform our planning, so the exact structure of support will vary based on the individual support needs of the pupils in the groups.

Small group support

In the Junior Years a key focus of Learning Skills support is to reinforce literacy skills. All support programmes focus on using multi-sensory activities to reinforce learning. Children may be invited to attend the department to receive small group support with phonics, spelling, reading and comprehension. The amount and type of support a child receives will vary depending on their individual needs.



In class support

Learning Skills staff also provide in class support with writing and comprehension.

Social and Emotional Support

Mrs Duff works with our pupils that may require additional support with their social skills or emotional well-being. She uses an array of resources tailored to the needs of each individual child.



Paired Reading

Our Form 6 pupils facilitate a paired reading programme with individual children identified as benefitting from additional reading practice.



Additional assessment arrangements Some pupils may require additional assessment arrangements such as a reader, scribe or use of ICT.

The provision for assessment arrangements is carefully monitored.



Transitioning to the Senior Years

The move up from Junior Years to Senior Years may be a worrying time. In order to ease the transition, support is available in a number of ways:

- Learning support continued if required, after discussion with parents, class teachers, the Learning Skills team and the Senior Leadership Team
- Broader curriculum support within Learning Skills
- Co-operative teaching in targeted English and Maths classes
- Guidance teachers to help each Form 1 pupil to settle in.
- Enhanced transition programme with Learning Skills if required



Pupil Profiles and Personal Learning Plans

Collaborative working and information sharing is central to our work in supporting our pupils. Every pupil that attends Learning Skills, or that has an identified Additional Support Need has a Pupil Profile to support this. The Pupil Profile is the key information sharing document that travels with our pupils as they progress up the school and is shared with all subject/ class teachers.



Please see the Learning Skills folder on Share Point for additional pupil support strategies and the assessment arrangement file:
<https://sharepoint.dundee.sch.uk/Forms/AllItems.aspx?Newset=527&Parent=527&New=643&C=643&F=643&M=643>

Name:	Learning Skills Pupil Profile	LS Department Liaison:	Guidance Teacher:
D.O.B:	Assessment Arrangements:	I would like you to know that:	I find it difficult to:
House:		•	
Insert a Pupil Photo Here			My strengths:
			•
It would help me if you could:		I will help myself by:	
		•	
Learning Skills support:		Other relevant information:	
		•	

This contains information about the pupil, their key barriers to learning and identified classroom support strategies. It also contains other relevant information such as assessment arrangements, and their history of support. Pupil Profiles are reviewed on at least an annual basis with the pupil, and in the Junior Years with the class teacher and parental input too.

Identifying additional support needs

We recognise the importance of early identification of specific learning difficulties, and the provision of appropriate intervention.

The department works collaboratively with class teachers to identify pupils that may be displaying indicators of a specific learning difficulty.

If you are concerned about your child please contact their class teacher, or member of the Junior Years Senior Leadership Team in the first instance.

If appropriate a Learning Skills assessment will then be carried out to build up a pupil profile and determine whether additional support would be of benefit.

In some cases, further assessment by an Educational Psychologist may also be recommended, or referral onto other relevant external agencies (e.g. CAMHS, Armistead or private assessment providers).



Pupils that attend Learning Skills for timetabled support also have a Personal Learning Plan. This is a document outlining the planned support. This is evaluated towards the end of the year by each pupil with a member of the department. This is sent home to parents.



If your child receives timetabled Learning Skills support, you will be offered two parents evening appointments per year to provide an opportunity to meet and discuss their support and progress.





If you have further questions about Learning Skills support, please get in touch via: enquiries@highschoolofdundee.org.uk