



**George
Heriot's
School**
Founded 1628

Welcome to the Junior School

My colleagues and I are very pleased to welcome you to the Junior School. We believe it to be a very happy, nurturing place where children can excel. We place great emphasis on effort and kindness.

Our curriculum is broad yet also promotes real depth of learning. As well as a rigorous approach to the teaching of English and Mathematics, our Junior School class teachers teach Health & Wellbeing, the Social Subjects and assist our Science Coordinator with the teaching of Science. We have subject specialist teaching for Art, Music, Drama, PE, Sport, Modern Languages and Computing. In addition, our unique, highly qualified Learning Enhancement team delivers weekly lessons in Philosophy, Teambuilding, Resilience and Mindfulness from Nursery to P7. To assist the children there is a whole school Support for Learning Department and an Able Child coordinator.

Throughout our teaching and learning, the aim is to reach every individual child's needs and play to their certain strengths. Hugely talented teachers, whose pastoral gifts are outstanding, inspire the children in their learning and ensure they flourish happily at George Heriot's.

The exciting core curriculum is enhanced by numerous activities within and beyond the classroom – residential trips, outdoor learning opportunities, over seventy Junior School clubs and a great many sporting, dramatic and musical events.

All of the above, plus our focus on kindness, mindset and responsibility, makes George Heriot's Junior School a refreshing and inspiring environment in which to encourage happiness, confidence and a love of learning.

We hope you enjoy your visit today.

Alastair G. Morrison

Mr Alastair G. Morrison
Head of Junior School

The Junior School

The Junior School comprises Early Years (including the Nursery), Middle Primary, Upper Primary and the Learning Enhancement Department.

As pupils progress through Junior School, they develop an increasing sense of belonging to the wider community of Heriot's and take full advantage of the excellent specialist teaching and facilities provided for them. Junior School pupils are supported by Senior 6 pupils who actively assist the staff and children on a timetabled basis.

At Heriot's we offer a secure, happy and stimulating environment in which each child can reach his or her full potential. We hold firm to that which is best in traditional education, while incorporating curricular innovation. Each curricular area has a carefully planned programme of work designed to enable pupils to develop at a pace and level suited to their age and ability. Pupils are encouraged to give their best at all times.

Within Junior School, we lay the foundations for future learning. We encourage good work habits and respect for others, and we provide a carefully planned and ever widening educational experience. Specialist teaching in Art, Drama, Music, PE (& Games) is provided in the Junior School. Philosophy, Mindfulness, Resilience and Team Building are taught from Nursery to Primary 7. In Primary 5, pupils study a term of each French, German and Spanish. They can then choose which to take forward in Primary 6. In Primary 6 & 7 specialist Computing teaching is provided and all Junior School children benefit from regular use of iPads, PCs and Promethean Boards. In Primaries 5–7 Games is added to the weekly Physical Education timetable. Timetabled games take place at Goldenacre, the School's playing fields. Inter-school matches are played on Saturday mornings; participation is strongly encouraged.

Children are formally screened in the core subjects each year and written reports issued regularly. From an early stage, regular homework is given and channels of communication are established. Formal opportunities for parent-staff contact are provided in the form of Parents' Evenings, Parent-Teacher Interviews and other events through the year. Parents may of course contact staff whenever they wish. We welcome and value the extremely close relationship we have with parents and have learned that children truly excel when they sense the all embracing care of school and parents working together to support their learning and development.

In preparing each child for his or her future, we focus on academic knowledge and understanding, alongside independence, good manners and concern for others. Junior School classrooms provide the main setting for the fulfilment of these needs and regular Assemblies reinforce the moral, behavioural and spiritual values of the School. Foundationers have a special place in the life of Heriot's and are well supported by staff.

Closely linked to our aims and ethos are the School's strong pastoral system and wide support networks. We are fortunate in having an excellent Support for Learning Department (including our own Educational Psychologist) which works throughout the school. The fully qualified team of Learning Enhancement teachers (including an Able Pupil Co-ordinator) supports the development of the Junior School pupils' thinking skills and the growth in their emotional intelligence.

Pupils participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, helping them gain confidence and experience success in different environments (detailed in the Prospectus). Junior School pupils enjoy residential educational opportunities both at home and abroad in Primaries 4, 5, 6 and 7. We also have an Outdoor Learning co-ordinator who helps the children to learn about the environment and who leads numerous adventure trips.

George Heriot's generosity founded the School almost 400 years ago and this spirit of giving and caring is still nurtured in our pupils. An important feature of the Junior School calendar is the charity support programme. True to our school motto - "I DISTRIBUTE CHEARFULLIE" - pupils take part in and organise a wide range of events to raise funds for a large number of charities. The highlight of the Junior School charities programme is the Summer Charities Fair held on the lawns in June.

Within an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect, as a Gold Rights Respecting School, George Heriot's Junior School strives to help each child to reach his or her potential - academically, physically and also socially, spiritually, emotionally and morally.

The Nursery

Our purpose-built Nursery was carefully designed and is well suited to the needs of the children beginning their Heriot's education. The Nursery's historic setting and modern facilities make it an attractive environment for our 32 Nursery pupils. Nursery day runs from 8.15am - 2.00pm; Wrap Around Care is available after Nursery, until 6.00pm.

Applications for a Nursery place may be made at any time. Before starting, all parents and their children will be invited to visit the Nursery to meet the staff and pupils.

The pupils actively engage in purposeful play using the indoor and outdoor learning environments which the stunning landscape and buildings of Heriot's provide. They also learn structures and routines that will help them as they move to Primary 1. The Nursery experience is designed as a one year, pre-school programme.

Our Nursery pupils' learning is led by fully-qualified Primary teachers, experienced Nursery Nurses and a range of subject specialists. Staff plan activities and experiences which recognise the importance of emotional, personal and social development, the acquisition of literacy and numeracy, the contribution of creative and physical skills and an ever-increasing knowledge of the immediate environment and the wider world. The development of each child is carefully charted by our specialist Nursery staff.

All Nursery children sit the School's Primary 1 Entrance Assessment in January/February.

The Learning Enhancement Department

This department, led by a Junior School Principal Teacher, comprises a team of fully qualified, experienced Primary teachers who do not have responsibility for a class. This department is unique to Heriot's and we believe it has a strong and positive impact on the children's learning. The Learning Enhancement staff deliver a varied programme focusing on skills for life. Programmes are delivered to all pupils from Nursery to P7 in Philosophy, Mindfulness, Thinking Skills, Resilience and Team Building. The Learning Enhancement staff also team teach with Junior School class teachers and focus on different groups of children at different times. This enables us to identify and meet the needs of all pupils. Our Science co-ordinator, Able Child co-ordinator and Outdoor Learning co-ordinator are based in the Learning Enhancement Department.

Early Years

Our Early Years department comprises of the Nursery and Primaries 1 and 2, led by our Early Years Depute. Primaries 1 and 2 are located in the modern, bright Greyfriars Building.

The boys and girls in P1 and P2 are cared for by their own Class Teacher and benefit from specialist teaching in Physical Education and Music. We also have the services of our Support for Learning Department, Nursery Nurses and Pupil Support Assistants, while our Learning Enhancement Teachers extend and support all pupils' learning. In P1 and P2 we introduce the children to school life in a caring, happy and well-disciplined environment. Each child is treated as an individual and encounters a rich and varied curriculum encompassing academic, emotional, cultural, social and physical experiences so that he/she can be given the opportunity to develop to the best of his or her potential. Our approach maintains high standards and rigour in all curricular areas. We place great importance on developing each child's self-confidence.

During early years, children form attitudes and perceptions which will remain with them for life. We strive to nurture in the children those values which will serve them well in years to come, none being more important than the seeing of themselves and others as valued and important individuals, each with a separate and positive sense of identity.

Primary 1 and 2 pupils are fully integrated into the life of the School and benefit greatly from the close contact they enjoy with the Junior School prefects and the Sixth Year pupils. All parents are made to feel welcome as we fully appreciate the value of close co-operation between home and school.

Middle and Upper Primary Years

The Middle and Upper Primaries consist of Primaries 3 to 7 and are led by two Junior School Deputes. The Middle and Upper Primary curriculum builds on the experiences the children have had in earlier years. Investigative skills and pupil responsibility play an increasingly important role at these stages.

In English Language the children follow a structured programme which addresses listening, talking, reading and writing. Increased emphasis is placed on debate, discussion, comprehension, grammar and extended writing. Modern Languages are introduced at these stages and are taught by specialists.

In Mathematics, the increased emphasis on problem solving and enquiry, and on mental strategies and recall, enhances children's numerical abilities while the judicious use of calculators and computers widens pupils' mathematical application. A coherent, planned policy in Science, Social Studies and Health and Well-being permits breadth, balance and progression.

In Primaries 6 and 7 pupils study Geography, History and Science as discrete subjects. In Primary 7 there are close links with the various Senior School departments. Specialist teaching is provided in Art, Physical Education, Games and Music. Drama is taught throughout the Junior School and by a Drama specialist in Primaries 5, 6 and 7, while P6 & P7 also receive specialist teaching in Computing. We have an E-Learning Co-ordinator, who ensures the pupils develop awareness of the opportunities and the risks of the online world, and an Outdoor Learning Co-ordinator.

Learning takes place outside the classroom on a more regular basis with an increasingly varied programme of educational outings. Games opportunities at Goldenacre, both during the week and on Saturdays, are introduced from P5. Residential educational experiences in Primaries 4, 5, 6 and 7 are an important part of the children's education. These experiences are looked back on affectionately by pupils as they remember the camaraderie they developed with their peers and with their teachers.

As the children complete their primary schooling it is important for us to focus on a smooth curricular and personal transition into the secondary years. The Upper Primary Depute, Deputy Head of the Junior School and Head of the Junior School oversee the transition to the Senior School in close liaison with the Primary 7 teachers and the relevant Senior School Year and Class Teachers.

The successful transition from primary to secondary education is regarded as essential to the continuing success of Heriot's. As members of the Junior School, each and every child is regarded as an integral member of the wider Heriot's Community.

We asked our new Primary Seven pupils to tell us how they found their first few weeks:

"Everyone here is so nice and cheerful. At first I was scared I would not fit in but anyone can fit in here and it's really easy to make friends."

"Everyone includes you in their game or group."

"You can get your work done without anyone disturbing you. We call ourselves family and help each other out."

"I would really recommend going to Heriot's because it is a nice school, and the students and staff always welcome newcomers."
