



George
Heriot's
School
Founded 1628

Care
Curiosity
Perseverance
Challenge
Kindness

An education built on **Values**

Community
Respect
Inclusivity
Empathy
Individuality
Integrity
Confidence
Creativity
Resilience
Discovery
Inspiration
Exploration
Opportunity
Leadership
Growth
Innovation
Wellbeing
Equality
Diversity
Trust
Reflection
Confidence
Success
Progress



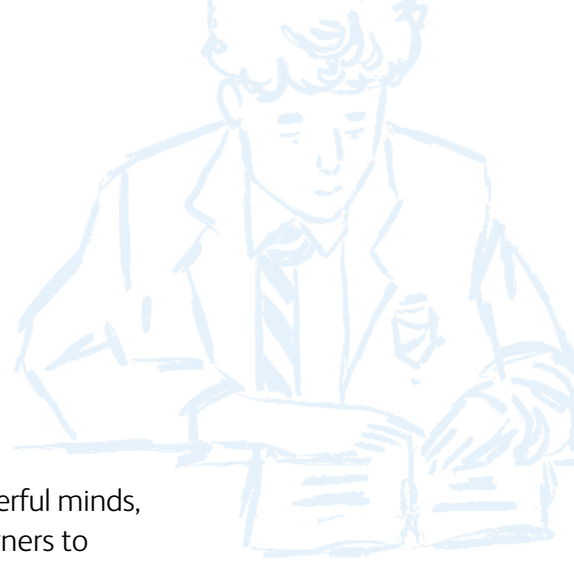
george-heriots.com

Work hard. Be kind. Be yourself. A simple set of values that underpin all we do.

Care and respect for others sit at the very core of our community. Our Founder, George Heriot, established the school in 1628 to educate Edinburgh's *'faitherless bairns'*. Today, the Foundation continues to provide supported places for children who have lost a parent.

Heriot's is one of Scotland's leading independent schools with a reputation for academic success. We celebrate hard work and achievement across all areas of school. Every child is valued as an individual, with a unique set of abilities, needs and interests. Our focus is on developing each child's potential in a happy, caring and stimulating environment. ★





Work Hard

Learning begins in the Nursery where purposeful play grows powerful minds, where bespoke philosophy lessons encourage our youngest learners to think for themselves. *Education Scotland* (2024) noted that Heriot's Junior School Learning Enhancement programme, which is taught to all pupils from Nursery to Primary 7, is a unique strength: pupils 'experience learning that supports them to be curious, creative, reflective and to self-lead. As a result, pupils develop outstanding listening and talking skills'.



At Heriot's, pupils learn how to think, explore, debate and discuss. They are encouraged to develop their inner voice by listening to different perspectives, learning to think abstractly and pursuing interests and passions. We encourage young people to be contributors, shaping the direction of their learning. Active learning sits at our core, as we grow meta skills, resilience and pupil agency; pupils experience, respond and collaborate, creating a magical learning journey rooted in academic rigour.

Subject passions are actively encouraged at Heriot's. The School's commitment to knowledge rich, subject specialist teaching and the high attainment that follows is second to none. We offer one of the widest subject choices available in Scotland, with 34 defined subjects to study at Nat 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level. In attracting excellent teachers and driving best practice, Heriot's in turn shapes the Scottish curriculum and influences education standards. Our pupils achieve consistently strong academic outcomes, with examination results placing the School in the Top 3 nationally each year, often first.

Education Scotland defined Heriot's as sector-leading for raising attainment and achievement in 2024.



In the Junior School, Children's **attainment in literacy and numeracy is outstanding.** Children across the Junior School demonstrate a love of reading.

Education Scotland Inspection

Heriot's is what every school should be, it **brings out the best** in the children.

Parent





One School, One Curriculum

At Heriot's, learning is one continuous journey. From Nursery to S6, pupils follow a curriculum shaped by a shared educational vision across the whole school; broad in scope, rich in knowledge and carefully designed so that each stage builds on the one before it - our 'One Curriculum'.

Breadth matters to us. Across the Junior and Senior Schools, pupils benefit from a wide range of subjects from languages and literature to science, mathematics, sport and the expressive arts all taught by specialists who know their disciplines intimately, ensuring they encounter the full span of human enquiry. In music, art, modern languages and physical education, specialist staff contribute across the whole school, creating a consistent learning experience from the Junior School through to S6. Literacy and numeracy are championed in every classroom as foundations for future learning, while knowledge is carefully sequenced so that pupils progress from secure understanding to sophisticated analysis and original thinking.

Our curriculum is intentionally demanding and intellectually ambitious. From the earliest years, pupils are encouraged to engage with big questions, think critically and explore different perspectives through inquiry-based learning. As they advance through our curriculum, pupils develop the confidence to make connections across subjects, look beyond their own experience to global perspectives and cultures, and take increasing ownership of their learning. Knowledge and skills develop together through inquiry and project-based learning, the Extended Project Qualification, and voluntary service.

Wellbeing and inclusion sit at the heart of everything. A leading pastoral system, a Gold Rights Respecting ethos and a commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals ensure that every pupil can flourish academically, socially and morally. High standards of behaviour, strong community partnerships and opportunities for service position our pupils as a force for good.

**One school, one curriculum, shaped by our values:
Work hard. Be kind. Be yourself.**





Be Kind

Heriot's founding motto, *I distribute chearfullie*, underpins the school's ethos of kindness and helping others. Right from Nursery and through Junior School, health and wellbeing lessons are a key aspect of pupil development and cover resilience, growth mindset and emotional literacy.



Throughout a child's time at Heriot's, they are known and understood through regular catch ups with guidance staff. Welfare is tracked discretely, while supportive teacher/pupil relationships underpin wellbeing to ensure young people are understood, heard and able to thrive. Pupil safety is a priority and in creating a caring and well-supported learning environment, children at Heriot's can thrive – and have fun in the process.

Heriot's was founded in 1628 to provide an education for children who have lost a parent. Today the School is a beacon of bereavement specialism with children continuing to join us through the Foundation, ensuring George Heriot's legacy remains at the very heart of school.

Education Scotland awarded Heriot's sector-leading status for wellbeing and inclusion in 2024. Heriot's is a three times gold award holder of the UNICEF Right Respecting School programme.

Pastoral care is a standout at Heriot's:
**kind teachers, with humour
and compassion.**

Parent



The School has sector leading approaches
to **ensuring inclusion and equality** for
children and young people.

Education Scotland Inspection

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Wellbeing lies at the heart of Heriot's school life. Across our Junior and Senior Schools, pupils and staff work collaboratively and creatively to ensure that individual and community wellbeing is supported, sustained and placed at the centre of both our pastoral care and educational practice. We are an inclusive community that works together. Where warmth, kindness and mutual respect are evident in everyday interactions.

As a Gold Rights Respecting School children and young people's voices are heard and valued. From a child's first days at Heriot's to their final year, young people are encouraged to shape their school community and contribute meaningfully to its development. Whether through our Wellbeing and Diversity Ambassadors' work leading annual campaigns and staff training, or through our Junior and Senior School Pupil Councils, Young Carers' groups and pupil interview panels, pupils play an active role in leading change, influencing decision-making and bringing our values to life.



Pupils benefit from a culture of care and support. Across every stage of school life, our sector-leading pastoral care ensures every pupil is known, valued and supported. Working closely with families and a broad range of external professionals, our pastoral and teaching staff collaborate to meet the needs of each child and young person, helping them to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. We embrace individuality, nurture talents and interests, develop confidence and skills, and cultivate forces for good in the wider world.

Heriot's is a place of belonging, where the wellbeing of children and young people is at the heart of all we do.



Be Yourself



Whether your child joins in Early Years, Junior School or Senior School, passions and interests are realised at Heriot's. On stage in one of the popular school productions or music concerts, applying their mind to the question 'where magic might come from' as part of Learning Enhancement, perfecting their Highland Dancing, playing in the internationally-recognised Pipe Band or learning how to fly with the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), interests at Heriot's are deliberately eclectic.



Outdoor adventure and residential trips are a big focus of the annual cycle for all year groups, while a wide range of special interest classes and co-curricular clubs, including STEM, Rights Respecting groups and cooking clubs, ensure there is truly something for everyone.

Heriot's excels in hockey, rugby, athletics, football, rowing, netball and cross country, with pupils winning sports scholarships for onward study at tertiary education in the UK and abroad. Every child participates in sport, which features a diverse range of activities from basketball to dance, netball, orienteering, Pilates and more. With many pupils representing Scotland at national level across a wide range of sports each year, Heriot's offers the support, coaching and opportunities to help every pupil reach their potential.





“Young people **feel safe, happy** and have every opportunity to **learn and thrive**”

Education Scotland Inspection

“The staff are **genuinely interested** in your child it feels like such a kind, **welcoming and nurturing** environment”

Parent





A network for life

When your child joins Heriot's, they become part of an international network of over 10,000 former pupils, featuring actors, chemists, scientists, lawyers, entrepreneurs, academics, medics, engineers, musicians, poets and many more. Herioters form a vast support pool for mentoring, networking and career choices for pupils both in the UK and abroad.



As Scotland's leading school, Heriot's has defined Scottish education for 400 years. An education at George Heriot's is a mark of assurance, transporting young people on a magical learning journey grounded in academic rigour, shaped by the very best teachers and assured by optimum results and progression to leading universities in the UK and abroad.

Get in touch

To arrange a visit, please contact the admissions team on 0131 221 6709 or email admissions@george-heriots.com.

Visit george-heriots.com for detail and current information on every aspect of school life.



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