



Beaconhurst

The Junior School

Beaconhurst is an all-through school comprising a Nursery, Junior and Senior schools all on the same campus. The school is managed by the Headmaster, assisted by a Deputy Head, Senior Tutor and Bursar, who reports to the school's Board of Governors. The school roll is currently around 400 and there is no intention to expand numbers significantly in the near future. Proportionally, the school population is 10% in Nursery, 40% in Junior School and 50% in Senior School. Pupils are drawn from a wide geographical area around the central belt of Scotland and from a variety of educational backgrounds, many of whom are coming to independent education for the first time.

There is no separate head of junior school and day-to-day management comes directly from the Headmaster and Senior Teacher in the Junior School. As a result, junior school teachers are given a high degree of independence and autonomy in their practice. At present, there are seven teachers, one for each stage from P1 to P5 and two for P6. Instead of P7 the school operates a Transition year group, which essentially begins senior school. At this stage, pupils are taught by subject specialists in the senior school, whilst retaining links with the junior school through familiar teachers.

From Junior 1 to Junior 6 (P1 – P6), the majority of the curriculum is delivered by the class teacher. However, there is extensive use of specialists from the senior school for subjects such as Art, PE, Drama, Music and IT. In addition, foreign languages are introduced at an early stage: German at J4 and French at J5. Although language specialists teach this, junior school staff are expected to take an interest in this area of the curriculum. The Junior School follows the Scottish 5-14 Curriculum. In addition, there is a specialist Learning Support Department, located in the junior school building, with a member of staff dedicated to supporting pupils in the Junior School. There are two Support for Learning Assistants who work in the Junior School, providing in-class support to pupils as required.

Pastoral care is administered by junior school staff, as is the PSHE programme. Good communication with parents is paramount and all junior school teachers are expected to liaise with parents on a regular basis; both formally at parent/teacher meetings and informally when parents collect their children. All junior school staff are expected to take an active role in offering extra-curricular activities, covering routine supervisory duties and running a prep (homework) session once a week. In addition, staff are encouraged to undertake regular CPD and play an active part in developing the Junior School.